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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Hospitalizations at 10-month high

Griffin Hospital CEO says capacity shrinking in New Haven County

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 in Connecticut surged to 645 over the weekend, reaching its highest point in the last 10 months.

On Monday in Hartford, Gov. Ned Lamont said that he is “a lot more worried about hospitalizations” than about the state’s positivity rate. Throughout the pandemic, he has pointed to hospitalizations as the most important COVID-19 metric in shaping his public health response.

“The key thing I look for is hospitalizations, making sure we have plenty of capacity at our hospitals,” Lamont said. He added,

“I haven’t heard of any needs.”

Yet an accelerating surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations and cases has already begun to strain some hospitals, including Yale New Haven Hospital. Last week, the CEO of Griffin Hospital Patrick Charnel urged residents to get vaccinated and boosted, citing diminishing hospital capacity across New Haven County. Over the past four weeks, hospitalizations have nearly tripled across Connecticut.

Cases, positivity rate

Connecticut reported 1,220 new COVID-19 cases out of 55,146 tests administered since Friday, for a daily positivity rate of 2.21%, the lowest daily test positivity rate that the state has seen since early November. Lamont’s chief operating officer Josh Geballe said that it was unclear why the daily positivity rate was so low.

Connecticut’s seven-day positiv-

ity rate now stands at 5.2%, similar to what it was in early December.

So far, the state has reported a total of 11 cases of the omicron variant. Researchers say the new strain is considerably more transmissible than the delta variant, which remains dominant in Connecticut for now.

All eight Connecticut counties — as well as the rest of those in the

Turn to COVID-19, Page 2

SANDY HOOK SHOOTING ANNIVERSARY



On the eve of the ninth anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shooting, Po Murray, chairwoman of the Newtown Action Alliance, advocates for stronger federal gun laws on the steps of the state Capitol with U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

‘We have to do more’

Nine years after tragedy, lawmakers once again press for gun control legislation

By Daniela Altamari | Hartford Courant

Nine years ago, Po Murray of Newtown kissed her 11-year-old son goodbye before he got on the school bus.

“A few hours later, I learned that 20 children and 6 educators were killed by my 20-year-old neighbor, who had access to his mothers AR-15 and high capacity magazines,” said Murray, who is chairwoman of the Newtown Action Alliance, a grassroots gun control group.

On Monday, one day before the ninth anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shooting, Murray joined U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and about two dozen activists on the steps of the state Capitol in Hartford to press for new gun safety laws.

Since the mass shooting on Dec. 14, 2012, 350,000 people in the U.S. have been killed by firearms. Major gun control legislation has stalled in Congress, but Murphy, a Democrat

who has become one of the loudest voices in support of gun safety legislation, rejected the notion that the effort is a lost cause in the face of strong Republican opposition.

“Movements take time to build and achieve ultimate victory,” Murphy said. “But the cause we are advocating is so righteous, we can’t fail. We have no choice but to persevere.”

Turn to Sandy Hook, Page 3



Gun violence prevention advocates gather for a news conference on the Capitol steps in Hartford ahead of the ninth anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shooting.

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Many still shun shots a year later

Deaths skyrocket since US rollout to turn tide on crisis

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press

One year ago, the biggest vaccination drive in U.S. history began with a flush of excitement in an otherwise gloomy December.

Trucks loaded with freezer-packed vials of a COVID-19 vaccine that had proved wildly successful in clinical trials fanned out across the land, bringing shots that many hoped would spell the end of the crisis.

That hasn’t happened. A year later, too many Americans remain unvaccinated and too many are dying.

The nation’s COVID-19 death toll stands at around 800,000 as the anniversary of the U.S. vaccine rollout arrives. A year ago it stood at 300,000. An untold number of lives, perhaps tens of thousands, have been saved by vaccination. But what might have been a time to celebrate a scientific achievement is fraught with discord and mourning.

National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins said scientists and health officials may have underestimated how the spread of misinformation could hobble the “astounding achievement” of the vaccines.

Developed and rolled out at blistering speed, the vaccines have proved safe and effective at preventing deaths and hospitalizations. Unvaccinated people have a 14 times higher risk of dying compared to fully vaccinated people, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated based on available data from September.

Their effectiveness has held up for the most part, allowing schools to reopen, restaurants to

Turn to Vaccines, Page 2

State agencies detail plans for children’s mental health care

Representatives from state agencies on Monday presented to legislators a range of state- and federally funded initiatives aimed at addressing children’s behavioral health, which has emerged as one of the top priorities for legislators in the upcoming session.

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East Hartford, Goodwin team on marina

Town seeks state grant to help university fund Connecticut River plan

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — The town of East Hartford will seek a state grant to help Goodwin University build a marina on the Connecticut River, part of a sprawling multi-phase development plan that also includes a riverfront hotel and restaurant, student housing and green space.

The \$2 million grant is from the state Department of Economic

and Community Development. The town and university would cover the remainder of the total \$4 million cost for the 32-slip marina.

The town is working with Goodwin to fund infrastructure improvements needed for the marina, including moving utilities underground, conversion of street lights to LED and expanded access to multi-use trails.

The marina would provide facilities for people of all abilities to kayak, canoe and enjoy other activities, town officials say. The project is a good fit for the state grant, officials say, because the state emphasizes public/private partnerships and the planned

development already has local, state and federal permits.

“Finally, the project location makes a natural linkage for the development plans at Rentschler Field,” according to town documents.

Pratt & Whitney recently sold the 300-acre former airfield to Massachusetts-based National Development, which has not announced plans for the property.

Pieces of Goodwin’s campus development already completed include a commercial/retail building at Main and Ensign streets that opened in May. Rebel Dog Coffee and American Eagle Financial Credit Union are tenants.

Completed last year was a \$10.5 million, 14,700-square-foot addition to the manufacturing annex at Connecticut River Academy, a magnet high school and one of three campus magnet schools the college runs with the state.

The state, which spent about \$130 million to build the schools, funded most of the cost of the manufacturing center addition, Goodwin officials have said. The extra space is meant to expand high-tech manufacturing training, serving academy students and area school districts, officials said.

Turn to Marina, Page 3

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Vaccines

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welcome diners and families to gather for the holidays.

“In terms of scientific, public health and logistical achievements, this is in the same category as putting a man on the moon,” said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The vaccines’ first year has been rocky with the disappointment of breakthrough infections, the political strife over mandates and, now, worries about whether the omicron variant will evade protection.

Despite all that, Dowdy said, “we’re going to look back and say the vaccines were a huge success story.”

On the day that an eager nation began rolling up its sleeves, Dec. 14, 2020, the U.S. death toll from COVID-19 hit 300,000. And deaths were running at an average of more than 2,500 a day and rising fast, worse than what the country witnessed during the harrowing spring of 2020, when New York City was the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak.

By late February total U.S. deaths had crossed 500,000, but the daily death count was plummeting from the horrible heights of early January. With hopes rising in early March, some states began reopening, lifting mask mandates and limits on indoor dining.

But by June, with the threat from COVID-19 seemingly fading, demand for vaccines had slipped, and states and companies had turned to incentives to try to restore interest in vaccination.

It was too little, too late.

Delta, a highly contagious mutated form of coronavirus, had silently arrived and had begun to spread quickly, finding plenty of unvaccinated victims.

“You have to be almost perfect almost all the time to beat this virus,” said Andrew Noymer, a public health professor at the University of California, Irvine. “The vaccine alone is not causing the pandemic to crash back to Earth.”

One of the great missed opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic is the shunning of vaccination by many Americans.

This fall, Rachel McKibbens, 45, lost her father and brother to COVID-19. Both had refused the



Boxes containing the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are prepared to be shipped at the Pfizer Global Supply Kalamazoo manufacturing plant in Portage, Mich., on Dec. 13, 2020. The nation’s COVID-19 death toll stands at about 800,000 as the anniversary of the U.S. vaccine rollout arrives. **MORRY GASH/AP**

protection of vaccination because they believed false conspiracy theories that the shots contained poison.

“What an embarrassment of a tragedy,” McKibbens said. “It didn’t have to be this way.”

More than 228,500 Americans have died from COVID-19 since April 19, the date when all U.S. adults were eligible to be vaccinated. That’s about 29% of the count since the first U.S. coronavirus deaths were recorded in February 2020, according to an Associated Press analysis.

In all, two states — Florida and Texas — contributed more than 52,000 deaths since that date. Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, Wyoming and Idaho also saw outsized death tolls after mid-April. California has seen more than 15,000 COVID-19 deaths since the state opened eligibility to all adults in mid-April.

McKibbens’ father and brother died in Santa Ana, Calif., in their shared home.

McKibbens pieced together what happened from text messages on her brother’s phone. Some of the texts she read after his death, including back-and-forth messages with a cousin who

cited TikTok as the source of bad advice.

“My brother did not seek medical attention for my dad,” keeping him lying on his back, even as his breathing began to sound like a broken-down motor, said McKibbens, who lives across the country in Rochester, New York.

Her father, Pete Camacho, died Oct. 22 at age 67. McKibbens flew to California to help with arrangements.

Her brother was sick, too, but “he refused to let me into the house because he said I shed coronavirus because I was vaccinated,” McKibbens recalled. “It was a strange new belief I had never heard before.”

A friend found her brother’s body after noticing food deliveries untouched on the porch.

Peter Camacho, named for his father, died Nov. 8 at 44.

“For me to have lost two-thirds of my family, it just levels you,” McKibbens said.

Important advice came too late for some. Seven months pregnant and unvaccinated, Tamara Alves Rodriguez tested positive for the coronavirus Aug. 9. Two days later, with many pregnant women falling seriously ill, U.S. health

officials strengthened their guidance to urge all mothers-to-be to get vaccinated.

Rodriguez had tried to get vaccinated weeks earlier but was told at a pharmacy she needed authorization from her doctor. “She never returned,” said her sister, Tanya Alves of Weston, Florida.

Six days after testing positive, Rodriguez had to have a breathing tube inserted down her throat at a hospital near her home in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Her baby girl was delivered by emergency cesarean section Aug. 16.

The young mother never held her child. Rodriguez died Oct. 30 at age 24. She left behind her husband, two other children and an extended family.

“Her children ask for her constantly,” Alves said. “I literally feel like a piece of me has been ripped out of me and even those words aren’t enough to describe it.”

She urges others to get vaccinated: “If you would know the terror of being hospitalized or having a loved one there ... if people would know, they would be afraid of this instead of fearing the vaccine.”

COVID-19

from Page 1

Northeast region — are currently recording “high” levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Monday, 645 patients in Connecticut are hospitalized with COVID-19, an increase of 60 patients since Friday. Hospitalizations are now at their highest point since mid-February.

According to the state, the vast majority of those hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is even higher when looking specifically at people with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state recorded 37 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,946.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen slightly but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has now recorded 797,473 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Monday, 86% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 73.5% of all residents and 83% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 33.1% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

According to state data, as of Dec. 9, of the 2,433,460 people who are fully vaccinated in the state, just 1.2% have contracted COVID-19.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Courant staff writer Seamus McAvoy contributed to this report. Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Hartford Courant

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BREAKING NEWS

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LOTTERY

Monday, Dec. 13

PLAY3 DAY

7 5 4 WB: 3

PLAY4 DAY

9 1 4 8 WB: 8

The late numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

SUNDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

1 9 9 WB: 0

PLAY4 NIGHT

0 3 8 6 WB: 7

CASH 5

3 15 20 32 34

LUCKY FOR LIFE

7 21 35 41 44 LB: 17

Tonight’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.5 million

Tonight’s est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$148 million

Wednesday’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$320 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

NEWS BRIEFING

US troops won't be punished for deadly drone strike in Kabul

From news services

WASHINGTON — None of the military personnel involved in a botched drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, that killed 10 civilians will face any kind of punishment after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved recommendations from two top commanders, a senior Pentagon official said.

The Pentagon acknowledged in September that the last U.S. drone strike before American troops withdrew from Afghanistan was a tragic mistake that killed the civilians, including seven children, after initially saying it had been necessary to prevent an Islamic State attack on troops.

A subsequent high-level investigation into the episode found no violations of law but stopped short of fully exonerating those involved, saying that was “commander business.” Austin left the final word on any administrative action, such as reprimands or demotions, to two senior commanders — Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., head of the military’s Central Command, and Gen. Richard D. Clarke, head of the Special Operations Command. Both officers found no grounds for penalizing any of the military personnel involved in the episode, the Pentagon official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss delicate personnel matters.

In two decades of war against shadowy enemies like al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, the U.S. military has killed hundreds, if not thousands, of civilians by accident in war zones like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia. And while the military from time to time accepts responsibility for an errant airstrike or a ground raid that harms

civilians, rarely does it ever hold specific individuals accountable. Critics of the Kabul strike pointed to the incongruity of acknowledging the mistake but not finding anyone accountable for any wrongdoing.

“This decision is shocking,” said Steven Kwon, founder and president of Nutrition & Education International, the California-based aid organization that employed Zemari Ahmadi, the driver of a white Toyota sedan that was struck by the U.S. drone. “How can our military wrongly take the lives of 10 precious Afghan people and hold no one accountable in any way?”

Israel and UAE: Israel’s prime minister on Monday said he was returning home “very optimistic” from a two-day trip to the United Arab Emirates — the first official visit to the Gulf country by an Israeli leader since the countries established relations last year.

Naftali Bennett’s trip this week to the Gulf Arab federation comes against the backdrop of nuclear talks between world powers and regional archrival Iran over its nuclear program.

Bennett’s office said he met Monday with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi’s powerful crown prince and de facto ruler of the Emirates for some four hours.

In a joint statement, the two countries said the visit marked “another milestone in the development of warm relations and a tremendous partnership.”

It said they had discussed a number of areas of cooperation, including trade, technology, the environment and tourism, as well as forming a joint research and development fund. The countries already have struck up burgeoning trade ties.



Palestinian gunmen fire shots into the air Monday during scuffles between Palestinian security forces and local militants during the funeral procession of Jamil Kayyal, 31, who was killed in clashes with Israeli forces, in the West Bank city of Nablus. Mourners included local gunmen who attended the funeral in a show of support for Kayyal. **MAJDI MOHAMMED/AP**

Michigan school shooting: A Michigan judge declined Monday to move the 15-year-old charged with killing four students at Oxford High School out of an adult jail, but she agreed that the jail needs to ensure the boy can’t hear or see grown-up inmates.

Ethan Crumbley’s attorney, Paulette Loftin, argued during his probable cause conference in Rochester Hills District Court that her client should be moved back to a juvenile facility, saying that he “should not be considered a menace to other juveniles.”

But District Judge Nancy Carniak sided with Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Marc Keast, who countered that the nature of the charges and security risks mandate that Crumbley be held in an adult facility. Crumbley is charged as an adult with killing four classmates and injuring seven other people in the Nov. 30 shooting at Oxford High School, about 30 miles north of Detroit.

Military discharge: The Air Force has discharged 27 people for refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccine, making them what officials believe are the first service members to be removed for disobeying the mandate to get the shots.

The Air Force gave its forces until Nov. 2 to get the vaccine, and thousands have either refused or sought an exemption. Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said Monday that these are the first airmen to be administratively discharged for reasons involving the vaccine.

She said all of them were in their first term of enlistment, so they were younger, lower-ranking personnel. And while the Air Force does not disclose what type of discharge a service member gets, legislation working its way through Congress limits the military to giving troops in vaccine refusal cases an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.

None of the 27 airmen

sought any type of exemption, medical, administrative or religious, Stefanek said.

Tesla CEO honored: Calling him a “clown, genius, edge-lord, visionary, industrialist, showman,” Time magazine has named Tesla CEO Elon Musk as its Person of the Year for 2021.

Musk, who is also the founder and CEO for space exploration company SpaceX, recently passed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos as the world’s wealthiest person as the rising price of Tesla pushed his net worth to around \$300 billion.

Time cited the breadth of Musk’s endeavors, from his founding of SpaceX in 2002, to his hand in the creation of the alternative energy company SolarCity in addition to Tesla, the most valuable car company in the world.

The magazine emphasizes that its annual acknowledgment is not an award, but rather, “recognition of the person who had the most influence on the

events of the year, for good or for ill.”

Virus in Britain: Long lines formed Monday at vaccination centers across England as people heeded the government’s call for all adults to get booster shots to protect themselves against the omicron variant, and as the U.K. recorded its first death of a patient infected with omicron.

In a televised announcement late Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said everyone 18 and older would be offered a third vaccine dose by Dec. 31 — less than three weeks away, and a month earlier than the previous target. Johnson said boosters would “reinforce our wall of vaccine protection” against an anticipated “tidal wave of omicron.”

U.K. health authorities say omicron cases are doubling every two to three days in Britain, and that the variant will replace delta as the dominant coronavirus strain within days.

Sandy Hook

from Page 1

Following last month’s shooting at a high school in Michigan, Murphy once again introduced a bill to expand the type of gun sales requiring background checks. And once again, the measure failed to come up for a vote.

Still, Murphy and the other advocates found reasons to be hopeful, citing the number of states that have passed new gun control measures in the past five years.

One of those bills was Ethan’s Law, which requires gun owners to safely store their weapons where a minor is present or face criminal charges. The bill, which was signed into law in Connecticut by Gov. Ned Lamont in 2019, is named in honor of Ethan Song, a Guilford teen who accidentally shot himself with an unsecured firearm that belonged to a friend’s father in January 2018.

“A safe storage statute



On the eve of the ninth anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting, gun violence prevention advocates gather for a news conference at the Capitol. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

says to people ‘keep your guns, we’re not taking them away,’” said Blumenthal, a Democrat. “But store them safely so that somebody who wants to take his own life or play with a gun and doesn’t have the experience to do it

safely or wants to kill people in schools” won’t have easy access to a weapon.

Murray suggested such a law could have prevented the Sandy Hook shootings. “If Nancy Lanza was a responsible gun owner who

made sure her weapons of war were locked up and kept away from her mentally ill son, then the 26 children and educators would still be alive today,” Murray said, referring to the mother of Adam Lanza, the 20-year-old who

committed the murders before killing himself.

“Those students would be in 10th grade in high school, playing in the band, playing sports, studying for their SAT tests, going home ... and baking holiday cookies with their family,” she said. Instead, “Nancy’s guns were used by her son to kill her, 26 others and then himself.”

The safe storage legislation is one of several bills languishing in Congress. Blumenthal and Murphy are also backing “red flag” legislation, which would give law enforcement the authority to temporarily revoke weapons from a person who poses a threat to themselves or others. Connecticut was the first state to pass such a bill, but about 20 others have followed, including the Republican-led states of Florida and Indiana.

“We really need to look at the long haul here,” Blumenthal said. “There’s no one solution, there’s no panacea. It will take red flag laws, background checks, safe storage [and] a ban on ghost guns.”

Democrats say the passage of President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better proposal will also advance their cause. The plan includes \$5 billion for community intervention programs, which identify people at risk for violence and connect them with counseling, education, employment programs and other social services.

Leonard Jihad of Connecticut Community Violence Intervention Program said the funding is crucial to addressing gun violence, especially in cities.

Jihad said someone in the U.S. is killed every 15 minutes by a handgun. “We have to do more,” he said. “Is this the best we got? I say not.”

Murray said she hopes Congress will take steps to spare other communities from the anguish Newtown experienced on Dec. 14, 2012.

“Until this issue becomes a true priority for everyone in this nation, more and more families and communities will join our tragic club,” she said.

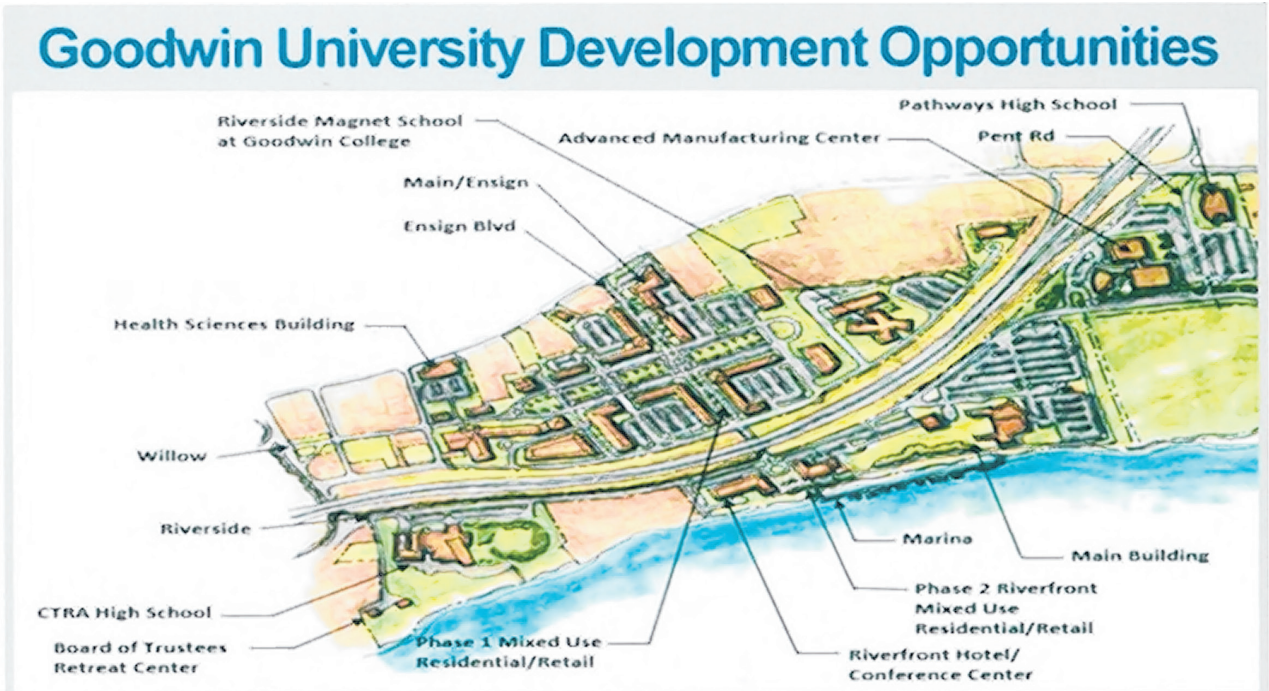
Marina

from Page 1

Still in the concept stage is a riverfront hotel with one or two restaurants on the site of a vacant restaurant at 125 Riverside Drive. The hospitality industry, however, has been hurting due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Todd Andrews, Goodwin’s senior vice president for economic and strategic development, said Monday.

“We’re still entertaining requests,” Andrews said of the potential development. “The problem is that whole industry has slowed down significantly.”

Also planned is a residential/retail building that would include student apartments. Andrews said university officials are talking with prospective developers and expect to announce plans within the next few months. The campus neighborhood



This illustration shows a planned development at Goodwin University’s campus on the Connecticut River. **CONTRIBUTED**

now includes nothing larger than four-unit housing. Almost all Goodwin students are commuters

and Connecticut residents, but officials say on-campus housing would attract students from farther away.

The building also was to include market-rate and above-market-rate apartments.

Finally, a \$4 million project designed to improve campus drainage continues. The work started at the

Connecticut River outfall at 125 Riverside Drive, and work along Ensign Street to Main Street was completed in the summer, Andrews said. Work in the King Court/Crosby Street area is set for spring or summer of 2022, he said. The project complements ongoing state drainage improvements along Route 2.

Since 2009, when the current campus was built on the site of an abandoned oil storage yard, the private, nonprofit institution has been buying houses and land between Main Street and Riverside Drive. Andrews and university President Mark Scheinberg have said the ongoing development is meant to benefit students and East Hartford residents and to attract visitors. The plans proceed from a community-based outlook, they said.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Tornadoes’ death toll climbs to 88

Thousands without heat, power, water; Biden to tour Ky.

By Bruce Schreiner and Claire Galofaro
Associated Press

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Residents of Kentucky counties where tornadoes killed dozens of people could be without heat, water or electricity in frigid temperatures for weeks or longer, state officials warned Monday, as the toll of damage and deaths came into clearer focus in five states slammed by the swarm of twisters.

Kentucky authorities said the sheer level of destruction was hindering their ability to tally the damage from Friday night’s storms. At least 88 people — including 74 in Kentucky — were killed by the tornado outbreak that also destroyed a nursing home in Arkansas, heavily damaged an Amazon distribution center in Illinois and spread its deadly effects into Tennessee and Missouri.

In Kentucky, as searches continued for those still missing, efforts also turned to repairing the power grid, sheltering those whose homes were destroyed and delivering drinking water and other supplies.

“We’re not going to let any of our families go homeless,” Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said in announcing that lodges in state parks were being used to provide shelter.

In Washington, President Joe Biden had a briefing Monday with homeland security and disaster response officials in the Oval Office to discuss what more the federal government can do to support



Volunteers help homeowner Martha Thomas, second right, sort debris in Mayfield, Ky. JOHNNY MILANO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

those affected by the natural disaster. Afterward, the White House said that on Wednesday Biden would travel to Kentucky — first to Fort Campbell for a briefing on the response operations, and then to Mayfield and Dawson Springs to survey the damage.

In Mayfield, one of the hardest hit towns, those who survived faced a high in the 50s and a low below freezing Monday without any utilities.

“Our infrastructure is so damaged. We have no running water. Our water tower was lost. Our wastewater management was lost, and there’s no natural gas to the city. So we have nothing

to rely on there,” Mayfield Mayor Kathy Stewart O’Nan said on “CBS Mornings.” “So that is purely survival at this point for so many of our people.”

Across the state, about 26,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, according to poweroutage.us, including nearly all of those in Mayfield. More than 10,000 homes and businesses have no water, and another 17,000 are under boil-water advisories, Kentucky Emergency Management Director Michael Dossett told reporters.

Kentucky was the worst hit by far in the cluster of twisters across several

states, remarkable because they came at a time of year when cold weather normally limits tornadoes. At least 74 people died in the state, Beshear said Monday, offering the first specific count of the dead.

Still, Beshear warned that it could take days longer to pin down the full death toll, with door-to-door searches impossible in some places.

“With this amount of damage and rubble, it may be a week or even more before we have a final count on the number of lost lives,” the governor said.

Initially as many as 70 people were feared dead in the Mayfield Consumer Products candle factory,

but the company said Sunday that eight deaths were confirmed and eight people remained missing, while more than 90 others had been located. Bob Ferguson, a spokesman for the company, said many employees gathered in a tornado shelter, then left the site and were hard to reach because phone service was out.

Debris from destroyed buildings and shredded trees covered the ground in Mayfield, a city of about 10,000 in western Kentucky. Twisted sheet metal, downed power lines and wrecked vehicles lined the streets. Windows were blown out and roofs torn off

the buildings that were still standing.

Five twisters hit Kentucky in all, including one with an extraordinarily long path of about 200 miles, authorities said.

In addition to the deaths in Kentucky, the tornadoes also killed at least six people in Illinois, where the Amazon distribution center in Edwardsville was hit; four in Tennessee; two in Arkansas, where the nursing home was destroyed and the governor said workers shielded residents with their own bodies; and two in Missouri.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Monday that it has opened an investigation into the collapse of the Amazon warehouse in Illinois.

Amazon’s Kelly Nantel said the Illinois warehouse was “constructed consistent with code.”

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said there would be an investigation into updating code requirements “given serious change in climate that we are seeing across the country” that appears to factor into stronger tornadoes.

On the outskirts of Dawson Springs, another Kentucky town devastated by the storms, homes were reduced to rubble and trees toppled, littering the landscape for at least a mile.

“It looks like a bomb went off. It’s just completely destroyed in areas,” said Jack Whitfield, the Hopkins County judge-executive.

He estimated that more than 60% of Dawson Springs, including hundreds of homes, was “beyond repair.”

“A full recovering is going to take years,” he said.

US on verge of topping 800K coronavirus deaths

1 of every 100 older Americans has died from the pandemic

By Julie Bosman, Amy Harmon and Albert Sun
The New York Times

As the coronavirus pandemic approaches the end of a second year, the United States stands on the cusp of surpassing 800,000 deaths from the virus, and no group has suffered more than older Americans.

All along, older people have been known to be more vulnerable, but the scale of loss is only now coming into full view.

Seventy-five percent of people who have died of the virus in the United States — or about 600,000 of the nearly 800,000 who have perished — have been 65 or older.

One in 100 older Americans has died from the virus. For people younger than 65, that ratio is closer to 1 in 1,400.

The heightened risk for older people has dominated life for many, partly as friends and family try to protect them.

“You get kind of forgotten,” said Pat Hayashi, 65, of San Francisco. “In the

pandemic, the isolation and the loneliness got worse. We lost our freedom and we lost our services.”

Since vaccines first became available a year ago, older Americans have been vaccinated at a much higher rate than younger age groups and yet the brutal toll on them has persisted. The share of younger people among all virus deaths in the country increased this year, but, in the past two months, the portion of older people has risen once again, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 1,200 people in the country are dying from COVID-19 each day, most of them 65 or older.

In interviews across the country, older Americans say they have continued to endure the isolation and fear associated with the pandemic long after tens of millions of younger and middle-aged people have gone back to work and school and largely resumed normal lives.

Older people are still falling seriously ill in great numbers, particularly if they are unvaccinated, and hospitals in the Midwest, New England and the Southwest have been strained with an influx of patients this month.

“After seeing a couple of people we knew die, we weren’t going to take any chances at all,” Rob Eiring, 70, a semiretired sales executive in Mill Creek, Washington, said of the way he and his wife had responded to the pandemic.

At the same time, the push by many companies to have employees return to workplaces is also creating new tension for adults who are older — but still working — and considered at higher risk if they were to get the virus, some experts said.

“There’s all these ways — subtle, overt, direct, indirect — that we are not taking the needs of older people in this pandemic into account,” said Louise Aronson, a geriatrician at the University of California, San Francisco, and author of “Elderhood.”

The pandemic is no longer in the early, dark days of spring 2020, when the mysterious virus was sweeping through nursing homes and assisted living facilities and killing people in staggeringly high numbers, particularly those with preexisting health issues.

By now, COVID-19 has become the third leading cause of death among Americans 65 and older, after heart disease and cancer. It is responsible for about



Staffers tend to a patient with the coronavirus Aug. 18 at Willis-Knighton Medical Center in Shreveport, La. The nation’s COVID-19 death toll is approaching 800,000. GERALD HERBERT/AP

13% of all deaths in that age group since the beginning of 2020, more than diabetes, accidents, Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.

The virus deaths of older people have sometimes been dismissed as losses that might have occurred anyway, from other causes, but analyses of “excess deaths” challenge that suggestion. Eighteen percent more older people died of all causes in 2020 than would have died in an ordinary year, according to data from the CDC.

“You can say, ‘They would have died anyway’ about any death, because we’re not immortal,” said Andrew Noymer, an associate professor of public health at the University of California, Irvine. “The point is you’re multiplying years of life lost by hundreds of thousands of deaths.”

At the same time, some older people who have spent decades shrugging off traditional notions of chronological age have chafed at the notion that they belong to an at-risk group, or that people

65 and older can be lumped together.

Billy Simmons, 71, an organic farmer in Iowa, said he had not taken public health warnings about his age too seriously.

Simmons decided not to be vaccinated.

“I’m a lot healthier than people I know who are 20 years younger than me,” he said. “If you’re 65 and older but very healthy and you eat well and you don’t oversleep, then you might not have so much to be concerned about it.”

Nassar sexual abuse survivors agree to a \$380 million settlement

By Juliet Macur
The New York Times

Hundreds of female gymnasts who were sexually abused by Larry Nassar, a former team doctor of the national gymnastics team, have agreed to a \$380 million settlement with USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, ending the latest dark chapter in one of the biggest molestation cases in sports history.

The settlement,

announced Monday during USA Gymnastics’ bankruptcy proceedings in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana, is among the largest for a sexual abuse case.

The funds would compensate more than 500 gymnasts — including Olympic gold medalists such as Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney and Aly Raisman — who were abused by Nassar or someone else in the sport.

“No amount of money will ever repair the damage that

has been done and what these women have been through,” said Rachael Denhollander, a Nassar survivor and member of a survivors committee involved in the settlement negotiations. “But at some point, the negotiations have to end because these women need help — and they need it right now.”

Many Nassar survivors have been in mediation



Nassar

with the gymnastics federation for years and have been waiting for compensation to help pay for costly mental health treatment, Denhollander said.

Gymnasts have battled anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, and some girls and women have attempted suicide because of Nassar’s abuse, which he perpetrated under the guise of medical treatment.

Insurers of USA Gymnastics and the USOPC would pay the bulk of the \$380 million settlement, but the USOPC also agreed to pay \$34 million of its own money and will give USA Gymnastics a loan of about \$6 million. That contribution represents a stunning turnaround for the organization, which had long argued that it shouldn’t be held responsible for Nassar’s crimes or be named in Nassar-related abuse lawsuits mainly because the doctor wasn’t

an Olympic committee employee.

Under the weight of those lawsuits, USA Gymnastics filed for bankruptcy protection in 2018, the same year Nassar was sentenced to what amounted to life in prison. The settlement now will help the federation emerge from bankruptcy and try to right itself after years of uncertainty. It will end the avalanche of lawsuits and keep the USOPC from decertifying it as an Olympic organization.

WORLD & NATION

Vaccine makers race to update shots

Omicron ‘pulling the fire alarm,’ but is threat genuine?

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press

Vaccine makers are racing to update their COVID-19 shots against the newest coronavirus threat even before it’s clear a change is needed, just in case.

Experts doubt today’s shots will become useless but say it’s critical to see how fast companies could produce a reformulated dose and prove it works — because whatever happens with omicron, this newest mutant won’t be the last.

Omicron “is pulling the fire alarm. Whether it turns out to be a false alarm, it would be really good to know if we can actually do this — get a new vaccine rolled out and be ready,” said immunologist E. John Wherry of the University of Pennsylvania.

It’s too soon to know how vaccines will hold up against omicron. The first hints last week were mixed: Preliminary lab tests suggest two Pfizer doses may not prevent an omicron infection but they could protect against severe illness. And a booster shot may rev up immunity enough to do both.

Better answers are expected in the coming weeks and regulators in the U.S. and other countries are keeping a close watch. The World Health Organization has appointed an independent scientific panel to advise on whether the shots need reformulating because of omicron or any other mutant.

But authorities haven’t laid out what would trigger such a drastic step: If vaccine immunity against serious illness drops, or if a new mutant merely spreads faster?

“This is not trivial,” BioNTech CEO Ugur Sahin, Pfizer’s vaccine partner, said



A woman gets her vaccination shot against COVID-19 on Dec. 6 at the Hillbrow Clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa. SHIRAAZ MOHAMED/AP

shortly before omicron’s discovery. A company could apply to market a new formula “but what happens if another company makes another proposal with another variant? We don’t have an agreed strategy.”

It’s a tough decision — and the virus moves faster than science. Just this fall the U.S. government’s vaccine advisers wondered why boosters weren’t retooled to target the extra-contagious delta variant — only to have the next scary mutant, omicron, be neither a delta descendant nor a very close cousin.

If vaccines do need tweaking, there’s still another question: Should there be a separate omicron booster or a combination shot?

And if it’s a combo, should it target the original strain along with omicron, or the currently dominant delta

variant plus omicron? Here’s what we know.

Companies aren’t starting from scratch: COVID-19 vaccines work by triggering production of antibodies that recognize and attack the spike protein that coats the coronavirus, and many are made with new technology flexible enough for easy updating. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are fastest to tweak, made with genetic instructions that tell the body to make harmless copies of the spike protein — and that messenger RNA can be swapped to match new mutations.

Pfizer expects to have an omicron-specific candidate ready for the Food and Drug Administration to consider in March, with some initial batches ready to ship around the same time, chief scien-

tific officer Dr. Mikael Dolsten said.

Moderna is predicting 60 to 90 days to have an omicron-specific candidate ready for testing. Other manufacturers that make COVID-19 vaccines using different technology, including Johnson & Johnson, also are pursuing possible updates.

Not clear if tweaks are needed: So far, the original vaccines have offered at least some cross-protection against prior variants. Even if immunity against omicron isn’t as good, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert, hopes the big antibody jump triggered by booster doses will compensate.

Pfizer’s preliminary lab testing, released Dec. 8, hints that might be the case, but

antibodies aren’t the only layer of defense. Vaccines also spur T cells that can prevent serious illness if someone does get infected, and Pfizer’s first tests showed, as expected, those don’t seem to be affected by omicron.

Also, memory cells that can create new and somewhat different antibodies form with each dose.

“You’re really training your immune system not just to deal better with existing variants, but it actually prepares a broader repertoire to deal with new variants,” Dolsten said.

How aggressive a mutant is also plays a role in whether to reformulate the vaccine.

How to tell if updates work: The FDA has said companies won’t need massive studies of tweaked

vaccines but small ones to measure if people given the updated shot have immune responses comparable to the original, effective shots.

Wherry doesn’t expect data from volunteers testing experimental omicron-targeted shots until at least February.

What about combination shots?: Flu vaccines protect against three or four different strains of influenza in one shot.

If a vaccine tweak is needed for omicron, authorities will have to decide to whether to make a separate omicron booster or add it to the original vaccine — or maybe even follow the flu model and try another combination.

There’s some evidence that a COVID-19 combo shot could work.

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Participants Needed



Attorney
Michael D’Amico

Focus group participants needed to listen to a summary of evidence in a pending personal injury lawsuit. If selected, participants who sit for the presentation will be compensated \$125 for their time and input.

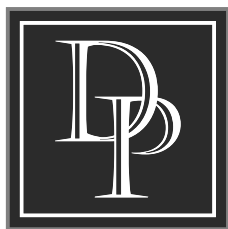
Requirements:

1. Laptop, Ipad or other device with Zoom capabilities;
2. Good Internet connection;
3. Strict confidentiality is required

Participants will be interviewed remotely via Zoom on **Tuesday, Dec 21st** at 5:30 p.m.

Presentation of evidence will be online via Zoom on **Wednesday, Dec 22nd** at 5:30 p.m. and will end at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Please contact Pamela **Thursday, Dec 16th** between the hours of 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.



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WORLD & NATION

Progress for Saudi women uneven

Restrictions are still widespread amid cultural shifts

By Kate Kelly
The New York Times

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — At the cramped shop where Kholoud Ahmed sells the traditional Muslim women's gowns known as abayas, the rainbow of colors is a revelation.

In the past, women in Riyadh typically dressed in the same black abaya no matter where they were going. Now, observed Ahmed, 21, there's a differently colored or styled abaya for every occasion: weddings, meeting friends at a cafe, visiting parents.

"Colored abayas used to be a strange thing for us in Riyadh, something unusual," Ahmed said. "Within a year it has significantly changed. It has become normal nowadays."

Since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman became Saudi Arabia's de facto leader more than four years ago, he has promised new opportunities for Saudi women as part of a broad modernization plan called Vision 2030.

The plan, which is advertised across Riyadh on posters and flags, is meant to wean the kingdom away from its historical reliance on oil and shift it toward new industries, including technology, pharmaceuticals and tourism.

But to create more job opportunities for Saudis and draw international investors and corporations to the desert monarchy, Crown Prince Mohammed is also chipping away at the conservative culture that has kept many women close to home for years and scared away many foreigners.

Over the last five years, the percentage of women working outside the home has almost doubled, according to official statistics, to 32% from nearly 18%. Women



Women and children picnic in October at Wadi Hanifa park in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Women say the kingdom has advanced significantly in just the past year, but restrictions remain everywhere. IMAN AL-DABBAGH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

today serve as customs officials at the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, client relationship managers at banks and hostesses at restaurants.

In addition to changes in the workplace, public space is becoming less strictly segregated by sex. In coffee shops in Riyadh like Overdose with the motto, "Caffeine, it's my drug of choice," male and female customers can now sip lattes in mixed company.

Women can attend certain sporting events at stadiums, which was forbidden until a few years ago. They are no longer required to use separate entrances from men although some establishments still use them. They can also now apply for passports, live by themselves and travel on their own.

But the progress has been uneven.

The guardianship system, which despite some recent reforms is still in place,

means that women must rely on permission from men — often their fathers or husbands, but in some cases their sons — to enter into marriages and make key decisions.

One prominent women's rights activist was jailed for three years after pushing publicly for some of the very changes Crown Prince Mohammed wanted to make — including allowing women to drive. She has since been released and has published a research paper on the status of Saudi women.

Those fits and starts are also evident in quotidian ways. Women's attire in Riyadh, though more relaxed than a few years ago, is still far from liberal: even women who avoid abayas wear clothes with long sleeves, high necklines and low hemlines.

They may be using money from their newly earned paychecks to shop for kitten-

heeled boots and slip dresses at Zara, but such outfits are still worn only in private settings.

"It's not like before, like you have to wear, like, hijab and everything," said Marwa, a 19-year-old university student who was shopping at Ahmed's shop, referring to the traditional head scarf worn by Saudi women. "Now you can have free choice, but limited. It's not like you are showing parts of your body."

But the culture remains conservative — and cautious of angering the authorities — that Marwa, like many of the Riyadh residents interviewed for this article, declined to give her full name.

Marwa said other cultural changes, like allowing store owners to remain open during prayer time to accommodate both merchants and shoppers, created problems of their own.

Some people who are devout and would pray no matter what, she said, could be offended by the business-as-usual attitude.

"It's like you're not respecting the prayer time," she said.

Her friend Alaa — who wore sweatpants and sneakers under her abaya and sported a wrist tattoo that said "Trust no one" — nodded.

During the call to prayer a few minutes later, a number of male store workers nearby locked their doors and walked to the mall's prayer room on an upper floor. On the ground floor, about 10 women, patrons who were wearing black abayas and hijabs, took rugs from a corner pile and knelt on them to pray. Other women sat quietly on benches, watching their children ride around in battery-operated toy cars.

A 52-year-old father of six, who gave only a nickname,

Abu Abdullah, said he saw the benefits of more flexible prayer times and new opportunities for women.

"During traveling, we don't pray," he said. "Even women, they don't pray for seven days," referring to the fact that women are forbidden to pray when they are menstruating.

Several of Abu Abdullah's five daughters were standing nearby, eating buttered corn and french fries. One of them, Nout al-Qahtani, 13, said she was thrilled about the changes for women in Saudi Arabia.

"I want to work," she said. "I really want to be a doctor."

Her father noted that not every dream job would be appropriate.

"Some jobs don't fit for some women," he said, citing roles in plumbing and construction work as examples. "It's better to put her in the right place."

Five miles north of the mall, a local soccer club, Al Shabab, was playing an out-of-town team at Prince Faisal bin Fahd Stadium. It was a mild evening, and the crowd was animated when the home team scored. On the men's side of the stadium, hundreds of men jumped to their feet, chanting and clapping for the players.

Across the stadium on what's known as the family side, where women and children were directed to sit, Najiba, 34, a nurse at the hospital complex King Fahd Medical City, was watching with two colleagues. Although women have been able to go to sports events in Saudi since 2018, it was only her second time at a match.

But several female spectators said they never missed a match. One, a 29-year-old manager at the Saudi British Bank attending with her brother, spoke highly of Riyadh's new entertainment options and the growing economic opportunities for women.

"We're so excited," she said.



President Biden hands a pen to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas as he signs an executive order Monday. The order's aim is to improve federal services. EVAN VUCCI/AP

Biden's order aims to restore faith in federal government

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed an executive order Monday aimed at rebuilding the public's trust in government by making it easier to do things like renew passports, apply for Social Security benefits and get aid after natural disasters.

The idea is to put the public and customer service at the center of federal operations, saving time, energy, frustration and potentially money by offering better and more efficient services for the millions of routine interactions people have with the government.

"The bottom line is we're going to make the government work more effectively," Biden said before signing the order in the Oval Office. "This will go a long way to restoring faith in the government."

The measure is aimed at reducing the current bureaucratic runaround, under which people often have to visit offices, endure long phone calls or struggle with the delays of mail and fax machines when trying to contact federal agencies.

The signing comes at a critical juncture for Biden to show that he can deliver results.

The country has seen a strong economic rebound as coronavirus relief programs sent money directly to Americans.

But support for the president has slumped as the United States faces inflation at a nearly four-decade high and the pandemic lingers.

The administration has responded by trying to amplify its message that government can make people's lives easier.

The goal is to implement most of the order's changes across 17 federal agencies within the next year. Officials said that existing funds should be enough for agencies to pay for improvements and that better service and efficiency would ultimately save the government money.

For retirees and the nearly 4 million Americans who turn 65 each year, the order requires that they be able to claim Social Security benefits online more easily. Medicare recipients are to be able to access personalized online tools for saving money on drugs

and managing their health care. Taxpayers will be able to schedule callbacks with the IRS instead of waiting on hold or having to manage issues through letters and faxes.

For travelers, Americans will be able to renew their passports online instead of having to print forms and pay with a paper check or money order.

The 45 million people with student debt will be able to manage their federal loans through a single portal, instead of several websites with different passwords.

Military veterans are to be able to access their benefits with a single login. Poorer families should find it easier to certify their incomes and enroll in eligible social safety net programs without the extra paperwork. Loan programs for small businesses and farmers are to become more responsive. Families receiving food aid should be able to buy groceries online.

It should also become easier to update mailing addresses with the government or change names with the Social Security Administration.

Jan. 6 panelists vote to hold ex-Trump aide in contempt

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection voted Monday night to recommend contempt charges against former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows as lawmakers demand his testimony about then-President Donald Trump's actions before and during the attack.

"Whatever legacy he thought he left in the House, this is his legacy now," committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said of Meadows — a former Republican congressman from North Carolina — in his opening remarks. "His former colleagues singling him out for criminal prosecution because he wouldn't answer questions about what he knows about a brutal attack on our democracy. That's his legacy."

The committee voted 9-0 to move forward with criminal charges against Meadows, who declined to appear for a deposition last week. Lawmakers had planned to ask about Trump's efforts to overturn the election in the weeks before the insurrection, including Meadows' outreach to states and his communications with members of Congress.

Trump's former top White House aide "is uniquely situated to provide key information, having straddled an official role in the White House and unofficial role related to Mr. Trump's reelection campaign," the panel said in a 51-page report released Sunday.

The report detailed the questions lawmakers have about the thousands of emails and texts Meadows had provided to the committee before he ended his cooperation — including 6,600 pages of records taken from personal email accounts and about 2,000



The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 siege voted 9-0 to recommend contempt charges after Mark Meadows did not show up for a deposition. SAUL LOEB/GETTY-AFP 2020

text messages.

The panel has not released all the documents, but the report says they include exchanges about Meadows efforts' to help Trump overturn his defeat in the presidential election, communications with members of Congress and organizers of a rally held the morning of the insurrection and frantic messages among aides and others as the violent attack unfolded that day.

Rep. Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chair, detailed Monday a series of text messages Meadows received Jan. 6 from a slew of people.

In the texts, allies and those in Trump's inner circle attempted to reach Trump through his chief of staff, imploring him to take action against the violence that was taking place outside and inside the Capitol.

"He's got to condemn this ... ASAP," Donald Trump Jr. wrote. "The Capitol Police tweet is not enough."

Meadows responded, saying, "I'm pushing it hard. I agree."

"Hey Mark, the president needs to tell people in the Capitol to go home ... this is hurting all of us ... he is

destroying his legacy," Fox News host Laura Ingraham texted Meadows.

As part of its list of questions for Meadows, the panel says it wants to know more about whether Trump was engaged in discussions regarding the response of the National Guard, which was delayed for hours as rioters beat police guarding the Capitol building.

The documents provided by Meadows include an email he sent to an unidentified person saying that the Guard would be present to "protect pro Trump people," the panel said.

The contempt vote comes after more than two months of negotiations with Meadows and his lawyer and as the panel has also struggled to obtain information from some of Trump's other top aides, such as his longtime ally Steve Bannon. The House voted to recommend charges against Bannon in October, and the Justice Department indicted him on two counts of contempt last month.

The panel's vote sends the referral to the full House, which could vote as soon as this week to send it to the Justice Department. The DOJ would then decide whether to prosecute.

WORLD & NATION

Scientists focus on COVID-19’s animal origins

By Laura Ungar
Associated Press

Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the origin of the virus tormenting the world remains shrouded in mystery. Most scientists believe it emerged in the wild and jumped from bats to humans, either directly or through another animal. Others theorize it escaped from a Chinese lab. Now, with the global COVID-19 death toll surpassing 5.2 million on the second anniversary of the earliest human cases, a growing chorus of scientists is trying to keep the focus on what they regard as the more plausible “zoonotic,” or animal-to-human, theory, in the hope that what’s learned will help human-kind fend off new viruses and variants.

“The lab-leak scenario gets a lot of attention, you know, on places like Twitter,” but “there’s no evidence that this virus was in a lab,” said University of Utah scientist Stephen Goldstein, who with 20 others wrote an article in the journal Cell in August laying out evidence for animal origin.

Michael Worobey, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona who contributed to the article, had signed a letter with other scientists last spring saying both theories were viable. Since then, he said, his own and others’ research has made him even more confident than he had been about the animal hypothesis, which is “just way more supported by the data.” Last month, Worobey published a COVID-19 timeline linking the first known human case to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, China, where live animals were sold. “The lab-leak idea is almost certainly a huge distraction that’s taking focus away from what actually happened,” he said. Others aren’t so sure.



Members of a World Health Organization team are seen through a window wearing protective gear during a field visit to the Hubei Animal Disease Control and Prevention Center in February in Wuhan, China. NG HAN GUAN/AP

Over the summer, a review ordered by President Joe Biden showed that four U.S. intelligence agencies believed with low confidence that the virus was initially transmitted from an animal to a human, and one agency believed with moderate confidence that the first infection was linked to a lab.

Some supporters of the lab-leak hypothesis have theorized that researchers were accidentally exposed because of inadequate safety practices while working with samples from the wild, or perhaps after creating the virus in the laboratory. U.S. intelligence officials have rejected suspicions China developed the virus as a bioweapon.

The continuing search for answers has inflamed tensions between the U.S. and China, which has accused the U.S. of making it the scapegoat for the disaster. Some experts fear the pandemic’s origins may

never be known. Scientists said in the Cell paper that SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is the ninth documented coronavirus to infect humans. All previous ones originated in animals. Many researchers believe wild animals were intermediate hosts for SARS-CoV-2, meaning they were infected with a bat coronavirus that then evolved. Scientists have been looking for the exact bat coronavirus involved, and in September identified three viruses in bats in Laos more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses. Worobey suspects raccoon dogs were the intermediate host. The fox-like mammals are susceptible to coronaviruses and were being sold live at the Huanan market, he said. “The gold-standard piece of evidence for an animal origin” would be an infected animal from there, Goldstein said. “But as far as we know, the market was cleared out.”

This year, a joint report by the World Health Organization and China called the transmission of the virus from bats to humans through another animal the most likely scenario and a lab leak “extremely unlikely.” But that report also sowed doubt by pegging the first known COVID-19 case as an accountant who had no connection to the Huanan market and first showed symptoms on Dec. 8, 2019. Worobey said proponents of the lab-leak theory point to that case in claiming the virus escaped from a Wuhan Institute of Virology facility near where the man lived. According to Worobey’s research, however, the man said in an interview that his Dec. 8 illness was actually a dental problem, and his COVID-19 symptoms began on Dec. 16, a date confirmed in hospital records. Worobey’s analysis identifies an earlier case: a vendor in the Huanan market who

came down with COVID-19 on Dec. 11. Experts worry the same sort of animal-to-human transmission of viruses could spark new pandemics — and worsen this one. Since COVID-19 emerged, many types of animals have gotten infected, including pet cats, dogs and ferrets; zoo animals such as big cats, otters and non-human primates; farm-raised mink; and white-tailed deer. Most got the virus from people, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which says humans can spread it to animals in close contact, but the risk of animals transmitting it to people is low. Another fear, however, is that animals could unleash new viral variants. Some wonder if the omicron variant began this way. “Around the world, we might have animals potentially incubating these variants even if we get (COVID-19) under control

in humans,” said David O’Connor, a virology expert at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “We’re probably not going to do a big giraffe immunization program any time soon.” Worobey said he has been looking for genetic fingerprints that might indicate whether omicron was created when the virus jumped from humans to an animal, mutated, and then leaped back to people. Experts say preventing zoonotic disease will require not only cracking down on illegal wildlife sales but making progress on big global problems that increase risky human-animal contact, such as habitat destruction and climate change. Failing to fully investigate the animal origin of the virus, scientists said in the Cell paper, “would leave the world vulnerable to future pandemics arising from the same human activities that have repeatedly put us on a collision course with novel viruses.” But further investigation is stymied by superpower politics. Lawrence Gostin of Georgetown University said there has been a “bare-knuckles fight” between China and the United States. “The politics around the origins investigation has literally poisoned the well of global cooperation,” said Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law. “The politics have literally been toxic.” An AP investigation last year found that the Chinese government was strictly controlling all research into COVID-19’s origins and promoting fringe theories that the virus could have come from outside the country. “This is a country that’s by instinct very closed, and it was never going to allow unfettered access by foreigners into its territory,” Gostin said.

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BUSINESS

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Harris unveils blueprint for EV charging network

VP says administration wants ‘to make electric vehicles accessible for everyone’

By **Matthew Daly**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration released an ambitious federal strategy Monday to build 500,000 charging stations for electric vehicles across the country and bring down the cost of electric cars with the goal of transforming the U.S. auto industry.

“The future of transportation in our nation and around the world is electric,” Vice President Kamala Harris said at an EV charging facility in Maryland.

The \$1 trillion infrastructure law President Joe Biden signed last month authorizes a nationwide network of charging stations and sets aside \$5 billion for states to build them, including \$63 million for Maryland. The law also provides an additional \$2.5 billion for local grants to support charging stations in rural areas and in disadvantaged communities.

Biden’s \$2 trillion social and environmental policy bill, now pending in the Senate, includes a \$7,500 tax credit to lower

the cost of electric vehicles.

The Biden administration wants “to make electric vehicles accessible for everyone,” Harris said. “Absolutely make it accessible for everyone and easy. Just like filling up your car with gas.”

Harris visited a maintenance facility in Brandywine, just outside Washington, where she received a demonstration of how chargers work and learned about a plan to electrify the government fleet in Maryland’s Prince George’s County.

“There’s no sound or fume!” Harris exclaimed as a local worker demonstrated the charger. “How do I know it’s actually working?”

The car is fully charged when it’s blinking green, the worker told her.

The new EV charging strategy establishes a joint electric vehicles office between the federal Energy and Transportation departments; issues guidance and standards for states; and ensures consultations with manufacturers, state and local governments, environmental justice and civil rights groups, tribes and others, the

White House said.

The two departments also will launch an advisory committee on electric vehicles that officials hope will be up and running early next year.

Accelerated adoption of electric vehicles for personal cars and commercial fleets would help achieve Biden’s goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050 while creating thousands of jobs, the White House said.

The effort also is intended to help the U.S. leapfrog China in the plug-in EV market. The U.S. market share of plug-in electric vehicle sales is one-third the size of the Chinese EV market.

Biden has set a goal that electric cars and trucks account for half of new vehicles sold by 2030.

The LMC Automotive consulting firm expects U.S. sales of new fully electric vehicles to hit nearly 400,000 this year, almost double last year’s figure. EVs still make up only about 2.6% of sales, but the firm expects sales to grow to more than 730,000 next year and more than 2 million by 2025.

Harley to take electric motorcycle unit public

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Harley-Davidson will take its electric motorcycle division public through a blank-check company, valuing the enterprise that has been part of the Harley for 10 years at \$1.77 billion.

Under the agreement, the special purpose acquisition company AEA-Bridges Impact Corp. will buy Harley-Davidson’s LiveWire and make it the first publicly traded electric motorcycle company in the U.S. next year.

LiveWire has been part of the Milwaukee motorcycle maker for 10 years and became a separate unit in 2019.

Harley-Davidson Chairman and CEO Jochen Zeitz will hold the same positions at LiveWire for up to two years after the deal closes.

LiveWire’s stock is expected to list on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol “LVW.”

Special purpose acquisition companies, or SPACs, are used as a shortcut to go public, bypassing the costly process of a traditional initial public offering. SPACs exploded in popularity last year, reaching a fever pitch early in 2021 when they were raising an average of \$6 billion every week.

Companies going the SPAC route often feel more license to highlight projections for big growth they’re expecting in the future, for example. In a traditional IPO, the company is limited to highlighting its past performance, not necessarily the greatest selling point for young startups that have little to show for in sales or profits.

Once the transaction closes, Harley-Davidson will keep an approximately 74% equity interest in LiveWire. ABIC’s shareholders will own about 17%, and ABIC’s founders and Taiwanese powersports company KYMCO will own approximately 4% each.



“You basically put all these elements in that make it much more usable by an older customer, but you don’t necessarily advertise and play up those elements,” says Rob Chess, a lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. **PETER PRATO/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

How to market to older folks?

Households headed by those 55 and up hold 69% of US’s wealth — so don’t say ‘old’

By **Corinne Purtill**
The New York Times

According to company lore, the idea for Nike’s CruzrOne sneaker — a well-cushioned, thick-soled running shoe that debuted in 2019 — originated with a conversation between a Nike designer, Tinker Hatfield, and Phil Knight, the company’s co-founder. Hatfield made the mistake of congratulating Knight on his habit of walking 8 miles a day and received a swift correction from his billionaire boss.

“I was running,” Knight says dryly in a promotional video, bearing a slightly aggrieved expression. “Just running not very fast.”

Nike makes shoes for sprinters and distance runners who cover all kinds of terrain. The conversation with Knight left Hatfield with an idea to design a shoe for a large, fast-growing and often overlooked market: runners who are not in a hurry.

“There needs to be a shoe for the slower runner,” Knight says in the ad. “That’s me.”

What is not said explicitly in the video is that Knight is in his 80s. Age is never mentioned in any of the CruzrOne’s marketing copy. By positioning the CruzrOne as a shoe with excellent support for runners who — for whatever reason — go at an extremely slow pace, Nike can offer a product designed for the older athlete to the general market.

It is an example of what Rob Chess, a Stanford Graduate School of Business lecturer, calls “stealth design”: a product that addresses needs of older consumers in a form that does not scream “old.”

“You basically put all these elements in that make it much more usable by an older customer, but you don’t necessarily advertise and play up those elements,” Chess said. “Or if you do, you certainly don’t position them as, you know, ‘Gee, we’re doing this for older people.’”

It is part of a seismic shift in the way that companies market to consumers who have lived past their 55th birthday. The large and rapidly expanding demographic has enormous spending power, yet it has historically been treated as a homogeneous group that spends its days either in the louche leisure of a Viagra ad or the frail dependence of a Life Alert spot.

In contrast, longevity experts said, today’s most effective marketing campaigns focus on the specific needs a product or service addresses and the lifestyle of the person buying it — ideally without explicitly mentioning age at all.

“I still see the word ‘senior’ and ‘elderly’ too often,” said Susan Golden, director of dcix, a program of Stanford’s Distinguished Careers Institute for midlife professionals, and a lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. “The idea is to market not to a name and not to an age, but to the stage of life or vibrancy.”

As of April, U.S. households headed by people 55 or older held \$92.3 trillion, or 69% of the country’s wealth, according to Lowell Ricketts, a data scientist at the Institute for Economic Equity at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Older people today are wealthier than previous generations, and there are a lot more of them.

By 2060, 95 million people in the United States will be 65 or older, up from 52 million in 2018, and constitute 23% of the population, up from 16%, according to the Population Reference Bureau, a nonprofit research group in Washington.

“They’re the biggest opportunity and the fastest-growing opportunity,” Chess said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

60 finalists vie for \$1B in grants

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo on Monday announced 60 finalists for \$1 billion in economic development grants tied to the Biden administration’s coronavirus relief package and aimed at improving job training and regional industry partnerships.

There were 529 applicants for the economic grants. That means roughly 11% of submissions made it to the next round, which will ultimately choose 20 to 30 regional coalitions for up to \$100 million in grants.

Among the city-led finalists are Indianapolis; Manchester, New Hampshire; Newark, New Jersey; New Orleans; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. The finalists also include universities in Alabama, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Miss. suit against J&J to proceed

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday turned away a request by Johnson & Johnson to halt a Mississippi lawsuit over its talcum powder products.

The case dates to 2014, when Mississippi sued J&J. Mississippi argues the company violated state law by failing to warn users of “dangerous and potentially lethal” health risks of using its products, which Mississippi says increase the risk of ovarian cancer in women.

Johnson & Johnson says that the Food and Drug Administration had considered requiring a warning on talcum powder products and concluded that the evidence did not justify requiring one. J&J has stopped selling its talc-based Johnson’s Baby Powder in the U.S. and Canada.

Medicare urged to cut back on ‘Part B’ hike

By **Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of a Senate panel that oversees Medicare says the Biden administration should use its legal authority to cut back a hefty premium increase soon hitting millions of enrollees, as a growing number of Democratic lawmakers call for action amid worries over rising inflation.

Last month, Medicare announced one of the largest increases ever in its “Part B” monthly premium for outpatient care, nearly \$22, from \$148.50 currently to \$170.10 starting in January.

The agency attributed roughly half the hike, about \$11 a month, to the need for a

contingency fund to cover Aduhelm, a new \$56,000 Alzheimer’s drug whose benefits have been widely questioned. Without further action, the monthly premium increase would swallow up a significant chunk of seniors’ 5.9% cost of living increase.

“Rather than assessing the current \$21.60 per month ... premium increase in full, I urge you to reduce the amount,” Senate Finance Chairman Ron Wyden, D-Ore., wrote Health Secretary Xavier Becerra. “Taking this type of approach would reduce near-term expenses for seniors on fixed incomes.”

A copy of the letter was provided to The Associated Press.

There was no immediate response from

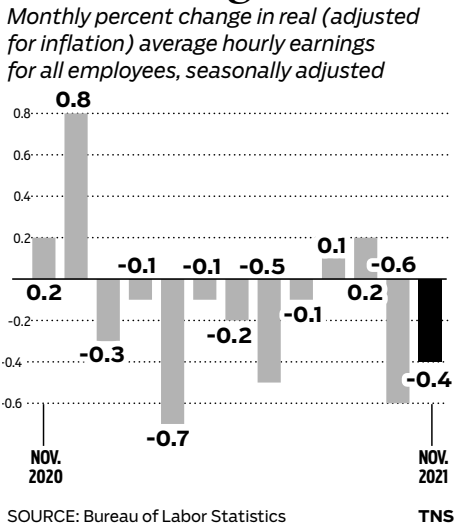
the Biden administration.

But Wyden wrote Becerra that as secretary of Health and Human Services, he has “broad authority” to determine the “appropriate contingency margin” to use in setting premiums.

Given that Medicare is still developing its formal policy for covering Aduhelm, Wyden said there is a clear rationale for collecting less up front at this particular time.

“It is possible that any near-term Medicare coverage for Aduhelm ... could have a limited and narrow scope,” he wrote. “Uncertainty” over the drug’s financial impact on Medicare appeared to be driving much of the calculation of the new premium, Wyden noted.

Real earnings



BUSINESS



American Airlines is cutting some international flights from its plans for the summer of 2022 because Boeing has failed to deliver planes that the airline ordered. STEVEN SENNE/AP

Airline cites Boeing delay for dropping some foreign flights

By David Koenig
Associated Press

DALLAS — American Airlines is dropping some international flights from its plans for next summer because Boeing has failed to deliver planes that the airline ordered, according to an internal memo.

Boeing has been unable to deliver its 787 jetliner, which it calls the Dreamliner, for about a year because of a series of manufacturing problems. The twin-aisle jet is popular with airlines for long flights because of its improved fuel efficiency over older planes of similar size.

American had expected 13 more Dreamliners in its fleet by this winter. Without those planes, “we simply won’t be able to fly as much internationally as we had planned next summer, or as we did in summer 2019,” Chief Revenue Officer Vasu Raja said in the memo sent last week to American’s employees.

“Boeing has advised us that they will compensate American for their inability to deliver the aircraft,” he added.

In an emailed statement,

Chicago-based Boeing did not address compensation but said it regrets the impact of delayed deliveries on its airline customers.

“Our team is continuing comprehensive inspections and rework, as needed, on undelivered airplanes, while holding transparent discussions” with the Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing said. The FAA regulates aircraft manufacturers.

Airline schedules have been upended by the pandemic, and that is true of international flights because of changing rules around the world. The carriers, however, have been encouraged by the increase in traffic since the rollout of vaccines against COVID-19, and they were optimistic about next summer, believing that people who have been stuck at home are eager to travel again.

American hoped to operate 89% of its 2019 schedule in summer 2022 but is scaling back to about 80%, said spokeswoman Andrea Koos.

According to the internal memo, American won’t fly to Edinburgh, Scotland; Shannon, Ireland; or

Hong Kong next summer and won’t bring back some destinations it served in 2019, including Prague. It will also cut the number of flights it hoped to offer to destinations in Asia, including Shanghai, Beijing and Sydney and will delay starting new service including flights between Seattle and Bangalore, India.

American expects to resume a full schedule to Mexico, the Caribbean, Latin America, London, Dublin and Madrid, according to the memo.

This past summer, American used some two-aisle jets on flights within the U.S. and on short international flights.

Next summer, however, all those so-called wide-body planes will be used on long international routes “to minimize the damage these aircraft delivery delays have caused to our long-haul portfolio,” Raja wrote in the memo, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Boeing has struggled with production flaws on 787s including tiny gaps between fuselage panels and improperly manufactured titanium parts.

Group: Pandemic tech tools raise everyday tracking risk

By Kelvin Chan
Associated Press

LONDON — Tech tools like digital contact tracing apps and artificial intelligence that European governments rolled out to combat COVID-19 failed to play a key role in solving the pandemic and now threaten to make such monitoring widely accepted, a new report shows.

The health surveillance technologies that many European countries deployed after the pandemic erupted last year were often adopted without enough transparency, safeguards or democratic debate, according to a report released last week by AlgorithmWatch, a nonprofit research group that tracks the impact of AI systems.

Authorities scrambled to develop new technologies or use existing ones to combat the virus’s spread. They built digital contact tracing apps to track who infected people had been around and later developed vaccine passports to verify people had received COVID-19 shots in order to travel or get into concerts, restaurants and other businesses. Some used drones and devices to enforce social distancing rules.

Many of these systems used “automated decision-making” technology, which reduced the complex social challenges posed by COVID-19 to a set of tech solutions, the Berlin-based nonprofit said.

AlgorithmWatch acknowledged that technology played a role in helping save some lives during the pandemic, such as through the use of artificial intelligence to efficiently distribute vaccines.

But the report’s authors said the most worrying trend was how the pandemic was used to



A new report says technology released to combat the pandemic may actually make monitoring widely accepted. Above, the NHS COVID-19 app. FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP 2020

“further entrench and normalize the surveillance, monitoring, measuring and prediction of an increasing number of daily activities — now essentially including public and personal health purposes.”

That’s an even larger problem considering the “bugs, fakery, data leaks” the group says are present in such tools, and the growing number of uses for information from COVID-fighting tech around the world.

Among the group’s recommendations: use an “evidence based” approach when rolling out automated decision-making technology and clearly limit its use to avoid “mass opaque deployments” that are bad for democracy.

The report documented the false starts and pitfalls that came with rushing out new and untested technology, focusing mainly on European countries.

In the early days of an initial 2020 lockdown, Belgian police planned to use drones to monitor social distancing but dropped the idea after a backlash. There was also a move to use security cameras originally

installed to fight serious crime and terrorism in an example of “function creep” — where technology is used for a different purpose than originally intended. That brought an expanded risk of a “surveillance society,” the report said.

Contact tracing apps flourished. Most are based on technology jointly developed by Apple and Google and use Bluetooth signals to anonymously log any smartphones that have been in close contact with a phone belonging to someone who has tested positive.

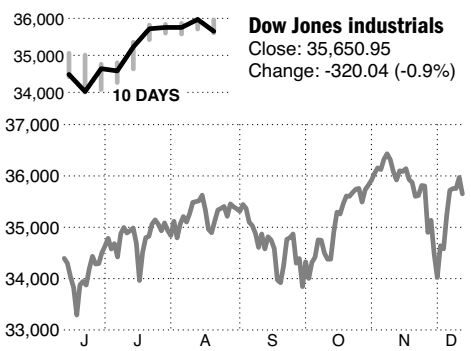
But uptake was spotty. For example, there’s evidence the Cyprus government’s tracing app “was not widely adopted,” the report said.

The Dutch government’s CoronaCheck vaccination status app had glitches. Because of the decentralized and privacy sensitive design, its QR code couldn’t be revoked if a user tested positive, allowing continued access to places that required proof of vaccination or a negative test result.

It was also possible to manipulate the app to get a fake test result, the report said.

MARKET RUNDOWN
Tuesday, December 14, 2021

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	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
Dow Indus.	35,650.95	-320.04	+16.48%
DOW Trans.	16,210.82	-193.85	+29.61%
DOW Util.	947.26	+11.59	+9.56%
NYSE Comp.	16,719.57	-137.05	+15.11%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,413.28	-217.32	+19.59%
S&P 500	4,668.97	-43.05	+24.30%
S&P 400	2,750.73	-29.11	+19.25%
Wilshire 5000	47,487.98	-474.07	+20.35%
Russell 2000	2,180.50	-31.31	+10.41%

Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	71.29	71.67	+46.93%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.79	3.93	+49.43%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.12	2.14	+48.65%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,786.30	1,782.90	-5.64%
Silver (oz)	22.29	22.16	-15.35%

Foreign Exchange		Money Rates	
ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3218	.7565	
Canada	.7815	1.2796	
China	.1571	6.3670	
Euro	1.1289	.8858	
Japan	.008808	113.54	
Mexico	.047641	20.9901	
Prime rate		3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill		0.05	0.06
6-mo. T-Bill		0.11	0.13
5-yr T-Note		1.21	1.21
10-yr T-Note		1.42	1.43
30-yr T-Bond		1.81	1.75

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	15,621.72	-1.59	-0.01% +13.87%
London	7,231.44	-60.34	-8.3% +11.93%
Hong Kong	23,954.58	-41.14	-1.7% -12.03%
Nikkei	28,640.49	+202.72	+7.1% +4.36%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	23.24	-4.20	+996.2
AT&T Inc (T)	22.44	-.40	-22.0
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	133.80	-4.75	+45.9
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.12	-.89	+8.6
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	1.69	-.60	-76.5
Amphenol Corp (APH)	83.60	-.67	...
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	8.23	-.15	-2.6
Apple Inc (AAPL)	175.74	-3.71	+32.4
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	48.29	+0.08	+6.2
Bank of America (BAC)	43.58	-.94	+43.8
Barnes Group (B)	46.59	+4.49	-8.1
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	6.82	+1.45	+54.6
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2149.51	-86.85	-3.5
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	59.05	+2.69	-4.8
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	98.90	+0.04	+44.8
Cdn Pac Railway G (CP)	70.76	-1.82	+2.1
Carnival Corp (CCL)	18.34	-.94	-15.3
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	54.93	-.58	+45.6
Charter Communie (CHTR)	60.55	-5.34	-8.5
Cigna Corp (CI)	215.15	+2.21	+3.3
CocaCola Co (KO)	57.76	+1.48	+5.3
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.71	-.74	-.9
Disney (DIS)	150.43	-2.28	-17.0
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	124.96	-1.13	+36.6
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	8.23	-.25	+33.2
Eros Intl plc (EROS)	.28	+0.03	-84.6
Ethan Allen (ETD)	24.76	-.15	+22.5
Eversource Energy (ES)	89.26	+1.38	+3.2
Foghorn Therapeutics (FHTX)	18.58	+6.59	-8.3
Ford Motor (F)	20.43	-1.02	+132.4
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.89	-.04	-38.3
Gen Dynamics (GD)	203.49	-1.44	+36.0
Gen Electric (GE)	93.13	-3.82	+8.7
General Motors Co (GM)	59.13	-4.08	+42.0
Hartford Fr Sv (HIG)	67.24	-.91	+37.3
Honeywell Intl (HON)	209.23	-.58	-1.6
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.47	+0.04	+24.4
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.61	-.58	+33.4
Intel Corp (INTC)	50.00	-.59	+4.4
Kaman (KAMN)	40.83	-.35	-28.5
KC Southern (KSU)	293.59	-5.05	+43.8
Keycorp (KEY)	22.45	-.56	+36.8
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.20	-.13	-29.2
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	65.15	-2.32	+29.5
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	39.15	+1.49	+45.9

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	40.34	-1.07	+28.0
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.35	-.12	+13.9
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	334.49	+4.74	+22.5
MetLife Inc (MET)	59.87	-.76	+27.5
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	339.40	-3.14	+52.6
Novartis AG (NVS)	80.85	+1.18	-14.4
Nuverra Environment (NES)	1.81	+.42	-15.0
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	281.61	-20.37	+115.7
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	85.38	-.70	+26.4
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.40	-.54	-21.9
Peloton Interactive (PTON)	41.34	+2.83	-72.8
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.01	-.63	+31.6
Petros Pharmaceutical (PTPI)	3.98	+1.28	-9.5
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	55.20	+2.42	+50.0
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.41	-.29	+4.1
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	105.08	-1.96	+34.6
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	65.19	+1.39	+11.8
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	84.33	-1.83	+17.9
Rogers Corp (ROG)	271.25	-.23	+74.7
SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	78.16	+0.06	+7.4
SeaChange Intl Inc (SEAC)	1.72	+.97	+22.9
SiMatron Intl (SGMA)	14.00	-.94	+19.1
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	14.58	-.43	-35.6
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	5.00	-.50	+67.8
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	192.43	-2.13	+7.8
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.91	-.65	+23.9
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.57	-.02	+20.3
Terex Corp (TEX)	44.08	-.91	+26.3
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	966.41	-50.62	+36.9
Tonix Pharma (TNXP)	.42	+0.03	-38.5
Travelers Cos (TRV)	153.18	-1.07	+9.1
Uber Technologies (UBER)	35.73	-.94	-29.9
United Rentals (URI)	338.26	-9.55	+45.9
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	478.14	-.09	+36.3
Verizon Comm (VZ)	50.28	+0.09	-14.4
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	285.50	-8.24	+31.6
Voya Financial (VOYA)	62.19	-1.04	+5.7
Webster Financial (WBS)	52.33	-2.02	+24.2
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1002.74	-7.51	+2
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	48.12	-1.00	+4.1
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	72.78	-2.94	+4.9
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.55	-.60	-11.4

Stuff

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OPINION

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OP-ED

College athletes are finally cashing in

And it's going better than many feared

By Leigh Steinberg

We didn't quite see this coming. Before the NCAA began to allow endorsement deals this summer, many people in the industry assumed that high-profile male athletes from major programs would be the prime beneficiaries, but the impact has been much broader.

Maxim Bets offered a deal to every female student-athlete in Colorado over the age of 21. Sixty football players at San Diego State signed with a moving company called College Hunks Hauling Junk & Moving. Deals for "name, image and likeness" have even spread to high school players. This fall, 17-year-old basketball player Mikey Williams, represented by a marketing agent, signed a pact with Puma to promote its apparel and shoes.

The NCAA has allowed endorsement deals only since July 1, and as an agent I've never seen such a rapid transformation as the switch from strict amateurism to athletic empowerment. There are certainly risks to allowing college athletes to hire marketing agents and sign commercial deals, but it is a long overdue change for the better.

For years many athletes from less affluent backgrounds have sent part of their scholarship check home to their families and tried to get by on very little. Unlike their peers, athletes could not work to supplement their income. Those at schools in expensive areas, like USC and UCLA, found the cost of housing, transportation and food more than they could handle. Meanwhile they saw the packed stadiums and arenas, read about lucrative television contracts and saw their jersey number sold in the student store — all enriching the university and its business partners, but not the player.

Under the old system many athletes still found ways to get around NCAA regulations, by taking under-the-table payments from agents and alums. Others left college without graduating, to pursue a career in professional leagues. The hope now is that student-athletes will feel less pressure to jump early to the pros, if they can cash in on their brand while remaining in school.

Since the rule change, there have been thousands of deals made by athletes and companies across the country. It's not just the high-profile, like Alabama's first-year



Connecticut's Paige Bueckers in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game. Bueckers has signed a multi-year endorsement deal with Gatorade. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

starting quarterback Bryce Young, whose coach announced that multiple deals had netted the player almost seven figures. It's also not just men who are benefiting. Athletes at the University of Texas have signed more than 175 deals, including 33 for softball players and 17 for volleyball players. Phil Knight, co-founder of Nike, joined with other University of Oregon boosters to create a company to help any student-athlete at the school capitalize on name, image and likeness revenue.

Some companies are winning publicity just for how they're choosing student-athletes. Jack in the Box is giving \$5,000, as well as \$500 in food credits, to a handful of college athletes with some variation of "Jack" in their name. Sam's Club is picking 10 student-athletes named Sam to receive \$10,000 each.

The cash is being spread around more widely than expected, but there's still a risk of disparities causing trouble. If a college

quarterback is making millions while the athlete blocking for him has no deals, this undercuts the concept of team.

Another risk is that athletes who have signed deals early in their career can face daunting expectations from fans. Athletes may need time to develop their skills, and underperformance invites ridicule. Already, the combination of team commitments and school can be challenging for young athletes. Adding marketing activity to the mix will be tough. The new currency is the number of followers an athlete has on platforms like Instagram, TikTok and Twitter. Building that audience takes time and attention.

The timetable for recruitment of athletes by agents has moved earlier in a dramatic way. Most marketing agents also represent professional players for contract negotiations. If an agent loses out on undergrad marketing rights as the player comes out of high school, they fear never getting

a chance to represent the player at all. Parents of high school athletes will need to assume a protective role on agent selection. Finally, although there may be less chance now of under-the-table payments, booster money may yet shape college athletics in another way as wealthy alumni use their businesses to make name, image and likeness deals with certain players, giving those schools an advantage and also potentially distorting decisions by the program and the coach.

There's a lot yet to work out in this new era, but the early results are encouraging. We haven't seen the concentration of deals that many feared, and that means more student-athletes will have a chance to reap some rewards while also completing their degrees.

Leigh Steinberg is a sports agent, philanthropist and author.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Put more troopers on roads

We once we had enough troopers to go after speeders and maintain safety standards at construction sites. So instead of upping the number of state troopers, we're going to rely on cameras to do the work of state troopers [Page 1, Dec. 8, "Work zones to get speed cameras"]? When a driver zooms through a construction site, he'll be sent an envelope to pay a fine for speeding. Wow, I feel so good that speed cameras will replace troopers and bring down deaths and accidents on our state highways.

Stuart Mahler, West Hartford

Republicans must stop following Trump

Imagine a world in which a functional Republican Party was not kowtowed to by a twice-impeached, two-time popular-vote-losing former president who presided over his party's loss of the White House, House and Senate; has multiple civil suits pending against him, openly bragged about grabbing women by the genitals, and is under investigation for inciting an insurrection to overthrow what has been ruled "the most secure election in American history." Republicans nationwide must be proud of their party's leader.

Is it possible that, absent Donald Trump, the few remaining non-Trump sycophant Republicans would actually vote for popular policies proposed by Democrats such as paid family leave, lower drug costs, free pre-K education, child tax credits, child and elder care support, expanded Medicare (including hearing coverage) and Medicaid, as well as programs to address the existential threat of climate change? And encourage vaccine programs that would reduce hospitalizations and deaths from COVID, which is hitting Trump-voting counties across America disproportionately due to Republican vaccine reluctance?

Sadly, today's Republican Party seems terrified of, and beholden to, an uninformed, incurious and totally unqualified reality TV host, who has already had four years to clearly demonstrate his inability to be the leader of the free world.

Scott MacDonald, Higganum

Don't publish Pollyanna writing on climate

In response to Gary Schilling's "human ingenuity will help prevent climate catastrophe" [Opinion, Page 1, Dec. 9]: First of all, "human ingenuity" is what got us into this. Second, his opinion is a perfect example of why economists, with their blinkered perspective, should never be allowed to lead us anywhere. After all, these are the folks who helped create the 2008 financial crisis. His narrow focus on how investors can bene-

fit from climate turmoil never allows him to mention the serious human misery that is already occurring and will continue. And what about non-human collateral damage, with knock-on damage that economists can't possibly predict, let alone mitigate?

Pollyannas will not help mitigate the challenges ahead, and it is not helpful to publicize their wishful thinking.

Martin Reiter, East Haddam

What can we do to protect our democracy?

The flood of writings telling us about threats to our democratic system of free and fair elections supervised by nonpartisan authorities scares the daylight out of me. We need vast, wide-ranging public discussion of what we can do to protect our democracy. Especially, what can I in Connecticut do to help protect electoral systems in the states where they're under attack?

Susan Stoppelman, Manchester

Appreciation for larger print on obits

Thank you so much for returning to the larger sized print for the obituaries. I sincerely appreciate the slightly larger print. I am 77 with poor eyesight and found the small print impossible to read. Thank you again.

Lyn Robitaille, East Hartland

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We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren't heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.

OP-ED

It's time to recognize that magic mushrooms can help mental health

By Alexandra Aglieco, Billie-Jo Sauvron and Sarah Violette

Psilocybin has been irrationally vilified as a dangerous street drug used by addicts and criminals since the inception of the Federal Controlled Substance Act in 1970.

Modern, progressive scientific thinkers know there is a large and growing body of research supporting psilocybin's therapeutic benefits. It has a huge potential to be a future leading treatment for a wide variety of psychiatric illnesses including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and more. Before any help can come to the population, however, it must be removed off the Schedule I narcotic list.

We are three professional registered nurses who have recently completed master's programs to become nurse practitioners. We have a combined 32 years of experience caring for psychiatric patients in a variety of settings. We feel that if psilocybin is removed from the Schedule I narcotic list so that it can be used as a psychiatric medication, there will be better overall outcomes for psychiatric patients.

Traditionally, psilocybin is known as a dangerous street drug. This is largely due to the fact that it has been — and remains — a Schedule I narcotic on the Controlled Substance Act created by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency. Despite this longstanding notion, there is a large amount of research supporting that it actually provides positive effects for many psychiatric patients. The benefits of psilocybin span the spectrum of psychiatric illnesses, and research shows patients have experienced significant reduction of disease symptoms, even in treatment resistant disorders.

In recent years, numerous studies have shown that psilocybin can help improve mental health. Treatment with psilocybin is done in studies with psychia-

trists and specialist physicians in strictly medically controlled environments, and patients are then observed for any positive or negative effects. After an extensive literature review of the existing body of knowledge, it is evident that the use of psilocybin provides great psychological benefits.

In various studies, psilocybin functioned as an effective treatment for reduction of anhedonia, one of the primary symptoms of major depressive disorder, as well as relief from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, intrusive thoughts, ritualistic behaviors common in obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and neuroticism. Psilocybin was also found to reduce the fear of death and dying among cancer patients. Additionally, it helped to minimize desires for addictive substances, negating the old-fashioned idea that it is a gateway to experimenting with other drugs.

Psilocybin was found to improve perception, cognition and emotional processing, as well as extraversion, conscientiousness and openness. Many of these effects persisted long term, up to a year or more.

For these reasons, it is clear that utilizing psilocybin as a therapeutic treatment would be beneficial for a wide range of psychiatric patients. This is why it is crucial for psilocybin to be removed from the Drug Enforcement Agency's Schedule I Narcotic list. Dropping psilocybin to a lower, more liberal drug scheduling would not only allow for its use as a psychiatric treatment, but also for more structured, thorough research to be conducted on it so that the body of knowledge can continue to grow. With less restrictions on the legality of psilocybin, we can minimize the burden of psychiatric illness for all patients.

Alexandra Aglieco lives in Glastonbury; Billie-Jo Sauvron lives in Plainville; Sarah Violette lives in Westbrook

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

Tuesday December 14, 2021 5:30 PM.

Location: In response to concerns regarding the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and in the interest of the safety and well-being of participants, this meeting will be held remotely by conference call.

Public Dial-In Information:
Number: 681-999-0297
PIN: 303243#

Pursuant to Section 15-31a(n) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on DECEMBER 14, 2021, commencing at 5:30 PM., to be held remotely via teleconference, accessible using the dial-in information above, for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of the State's maritime policies, facilities and support for maritime commerce and industry.
12/7 - 12/14/2021 7097064

NOTICE OF SALE SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MIDDLESEX AT MIDDLETOWN NOVEMBER 16, 2021. DOCKET NUMBER: CV21-6031159S GREEN ACRES ASSOCIATES, LLC v. CHRISTOPHER CERAMI, ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER BRILL. Pursuant to an order of the Court dated November 16, 2021, a public sale of a 1979 Zimmer Mobile Manufactured Home, identification number Z201897, owned by The Estate of Christopher Brill shall be held at Woods Edge Lane, WE#16, Westbrook, Connecticut on December 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Any person, including a lien holder or the owner of the mobile manufactured home park, may bid at the sale. THE SALE WILL EXTINGUISH ALL PREVIOUS OWNERSHIP AND LIEN RIGHTS. PLAINTIFF BY: MICHAEL IACURCI, ITS ATTORNEY, 70 WALL STREET, MADISON, CT 06443, 203-245-2400, JURIS #419094 11/30, 12/07, 12/14/21 7087638

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Public Notice

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police Department is in possession of unclaimed found property. If you have lost property in the City of Hartford, contact the HPD Property Room at 860 757-4180 weekdays 7:A.M to 2:30 P.M. Please provide a detailed description of the property, the circumstances of its loss, and proof of ownership. The City of Hartford Positive identification is required before property will be released. Found Property is held for six months after being turned in. Tues 10/12-12/28/21 7057211

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

CREC Cooperative Purchasing Invitation to Bid

The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) invites the submission of signed and sealed proposals to furnish schools, municipalities and non-profits with Office Supplies, Multi-Purpose Paper and School & Instructional Supplies. Visit www.crec.org/rfp and click sign in to register and access the bid. Responses must be received no later than 11:00 a.m. on January 21, 2022. 12/13, 14, 15, 21 7100667

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Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE – INVITATION TO BID TOWN OF GLASTONBURY FOUNDATION REPAIRS TO TOWN BARN GL-2022-18

The Town of Glastonbury (the "Town") is requesting proposals from licensed, qualified general contractors for foundation repairs (the "Project") at the premises known as the Glastonbury Hunt Club at Winter Hill, located at 177 Bailey Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (the "Premises"). Bids can be submitted at the following link: <https://app.negometrix.com/buyer/2832> under the BID title "GL-2022-18 - Foundation Repairs to Town Barn". Bidders will be required to create a profile before submitting their bid. Step-by-step instructions on how to register as a vendor are available at this website: <https://help.negometrix.com/en/support/solutions/articles/9000177626-register-on-negometrix4>. Bids for the Project shall be submitted no later than 11:00 A.M. on January 13, 2022, after which time the bids will be publicly opened. No late bids will be accepted.

The Project will include the following: Removal of loose and spalling concrete; application of Sikar brand coating/sealant material on exposed rebar and concrete and restoring foundation wall finish.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the site, 177 Bailey Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033, on December 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM. All bidders must attend in order for their bid to be considered. Due to the current pandemic attendees must comply with social distancing guidelines and wear a mask at all times during the meeting.

This Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents (as defined in the Instruction to Bidders) are available for viewing and downloading on the State Contracting Portal at www.das.state.ct.us, and the Town of Glastonbury website www.glastonburyct.gov at no cost.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bid Bond, executed in an amount not less than 10% of the base bid except as otherwise expressly provided in the Instruction to Bidders. If the base bid amount of the successful bidder exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), the successful bidder will be required to provide performance and labor and material payment bonds in the full amount of the agreed contract price.

Bidders are further advised that this project is subject to the prevailing wage requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 31-53.

The Town of Glastonbury is An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/ Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to bid.

The Town reserves the right to amend or withdraw this Invitation to Bid for any reason, to accept or reject any or all Bids, to waive any formalities or non-material deficiencies in any Bid, and to make such award (or make no award) of a contract in connection with this Invitation to Bid all as determined by the Town, in its discretion, to be in the best interest of the Town. A Bid may be rejected for irregularities of any kind, including without limitation, alteration of form, additions not called for, conditional proposals, and incomplete Bids. A Bid may also be rejected if, in the opinion of the Town, the Bid does not meet the standard of quality established by the Bidding Documents. Any or all Bids may be rejected if there is any reason to believe that collusion exists among two or more Bidders. The foregoing provisions are for illustrative purposes and shall in no way limit the right of the Town to reject any and all Bids, in whole or in part.
12/14/21 7105369

LEGAL NOTICE BLUE HILLS FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Please be advised that a Special Meeting of legal voters of the Blue Hills Fire District will be held on December 27, 2021, at 6:00pm., at the Fire Headquarters: 1021 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield, CT.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:
1. Discussion and Anticipated action in revising and updating the Commissioners' Rules and Procedures
2. Adjournment

Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut
December 13, 2021
Barbara Taylor, District Clerk
Please send a receipt to the above address or to fax #860-242-8832.
If you have any questions or if there is a problem getting into the proper edition, please contact District Clerk, Barbara Taylor @ 860-243-8949 (Fire Headquarters). This legal notice should be mailed to the Blue Hills Fire District at the above address.
Sincerely,
Barbara Taylor
District Clerk
12/14/21 7105415

Proposals for: Building Improvements, at the Ansonia Early Care and Education Center at 80 Howard Avenue Ansonia, Connecticut, 06401 will be accepted until 12:00 pm on January 6, 2022 at the office of Team Inc., 30 Elizabeth Street, Derby, Connecticut 06418. At which time they will be opened and read. All potential bidders must provide contact information via email to edwrlvly@sbglobal.net prior to the mandatory walk-through scheduled December 18, 2021 at 9:00 am. Copy and paste the following link <https://we.tl/tbaG0Q0I0fQ> to access bid documents via We Transfer.
Proposals are to be mailed or hand delivered to Team Inc., at the Derby address above.
Team Inc. is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Minority business enterprises, women business enterprises are encouraged to apply.
Team Inc. reserves the right to waive any informality, to reject any or all proposals or any part of any proposals when it is determined to be in their best interest. Team Inc. will not be responsible for any cost involved in the preparation of the quotation.
Questions may be directed to Mr. Edward Leavy at edwrlvly@sbglobal.net
12/14 - 12/17/2021 7104619

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, JAMES G DOREY, 2 MEISSNER WAY, CLARK, NJ 07066-2219. Have filed an application placarded 12/13/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a GROCERY BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 590 WINDSOR AVE WINDSOR, CT 06095-4046. The business will be owned by PRRC, INC.. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 1-24-2022.

12/13/2021
JAMES G DOREY
12/14, 12/21/2021 7104157

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, SHEVERAN W HARDY, 4 COMSTOCK PL EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-4024. Have filed an application placarded 12/07/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 2964 MAIN ST HARTFORD CT 06120-1410. The business will be owned by NORTH MAIN TOBACCO & BARBER SHOP LOUNGE LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Comedians Objections must be filed by: 01-18-2022.

12/07/2021
SHEVERAN W HARDY
12/7, 12/14/2021 7098082

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon Peter L. Brown Isabel S. Lovesky	Newington Isabel S. Lovesky
Berlin Joseph Pistilli	Other Town in CT Barbara M. Dziadul
Bristol Martha H. Pond	Plainville Ronald T. Mangene
Colchester Frances W. Lavigne	Portland Mark S. Hetzel
East Hartford Gerald J. Crowley, Jr.	Rocky Hill Mariusz Maltowski Mary A. Rich Camilla Rossi
Enfield Rita G. Cote	Southington Darrell J. Lapoint, Sr Robert E. Raleigh
Farmington Adelaide A. Barry	Suffield Bruce G. Remington
Glastonbury Heidi N. Appleton	Unionville Patricia C. Parsons
Granby Peter L. Brown	Vernon Doris G. Boyle Jadwiga J. Krajewska
Hartford Dolores J. Bielawiec Michael S. Combs Robert L. Meade	West Hartford Adelaide A. Barry Robert L. Meade Patricia C. Parsons Leonard D. Skinger
Manchester Frances M. Gagnon Frances W. Lavigne	Wethersfield Mary A. Rich
Marlborough Heidi N. Appleton	Windsor Locks Barbara M. Dziadul
New Britain Jadwiga J. Krajewska	

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Combs, Michael S.



Michael Simms Combs, 62, of New Britain passed away December 10, 2021 at a local hospital. He was born November 14, 1959 to the late Fred & Barbara Combs. He was predeceased by both his father & mother and his life-partner Dorothy Jackson. He is survived by daughters Ashley Combs of California, Taylor Combs of Ohio and

Shavonne Jackson of North Carolina; sisters Bridget Dunlap of Hartford & Valerie Combs of Bloomfield; brother Jason Combs of Bloomfield and a host of nieces & nephews. Memorial Service will be Thursday, December 16 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 222 Barbour Street, Hartford, at 12pm. All Faith is in charge of arrangements.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

LaVigne, Frances Woods



Frances (Fran) Woods LaVigne, 78, passed away on November 28, 2021, in Naples, Florida (formerly from Colchester and Manchester CT). Wife of Joseph LaVigne, Fran was born in Stafford Springs on July 27, 1943, to Francis and Fanny Barrett Woods. She enjoyed a 28-year career as a home economics teacher at RHAM Middle School. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and teacher. Fran is survived by her husband of 57 years and two children: Stephanie (LaVigne) Bancroft and her husband Paul from Andover, Christopher LaVigne and his wife Deborah Reelitz of Granby. She also leaves behind five grandchildren: Colin Bancroft, Austin LaVigne, Alexandra LaVigne, Ethan LaVigne, and Benjamin LaVigne. A memorial service will be held December 21st at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home in Manchester from 4:00-7:00. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Harry Chapin Food Band harrychapinfoodband.org.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Maltowski, Mariusz

Mariusz Maltowski, 68, of Rocky Hill, passed away on Saturday (December 11, 2021) at Apple Rehab in Rocky Hill. He was born in Poland, the son of the late Jerzy and Elzbieta (Sczepanski) Maltowski. He is survived by his loving wife, Aleksandra (Dzikowski) Maltowski. He also leaves his family and friends both here in the states as well as in Poland. Although we are sad he is no longer here with us, we rejoice in knowing he is at peace and resting in the blessed arms of the Lord. A funeral service will be held on Monday (December 20, 2021) at 11 AM in the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St. Rocky Hill. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at www.rose-hillfuneralhomes.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Boyle, Doris Griffith

Doris Griffith Boyle passed away at the age of 101 on Friday, December 10, 2021, at Manchester Manor. She was a long-time resident of Vernon, and a member of the First Congregational Church of Vernon. Doris was born on January 18, 1920, in Sugar Notch, PA, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Carrie (Murrish Greenwood) Griffith. She was predeceased by her husband, Leonard; sister, Elva Davis; and brother, John Griffith. She is survived by her daughter Carolyn of Niantic, CT, and son Len and his wife Nora Dannehy of Glastonbury, CT. She is also survived by her grandchildren and their spouses: Daniel Boyle (Madeleine Gray), Caitlin Markwith (Greg) and Brendan "Mickey" Boyle (Kim), as well as four great grandchildren – Calla, Carolina, Paige and Benjamin. Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home in Vernon has care of the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

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OBITUARIES

Skinger, Leonard Dennis



Leonard Dennis Skinger, "Lenny", age 84, left the family he loved so dearly on December 11, 2021 after a hard fought battle with cancer and is now reunited with his creator. Lenny was born on August 9, 1937 in New Britain to Genevieve and Dennis Leonard Skinger. He graduated from St. Mary Elementary school. During those years he was very active in the New Britain Boys Club and the Boy Scouts of America where he earned the rank of Life Scout and was a Junior Assistant Scout Master. In 1955, Lenny graduated with honors from St. John Kanty Preparatory School in Erie, PA, where he received the most outstanding student award. While there, he developed a strong work ethic which he maintained throughout his life. In 1959 he graduated from the University of Connecticut with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and remained a proud UConn alum. He also earned a student pilots license. Upon graduation, Lenny was employed by Westinghouse Electric in their sales engineering program which gave him the opportunity to travel.



In 1961, Lenny served in the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, after which he spent his career in electrical sales working with original equipment manufacturers. He retired in 1999 from Eaton Corporation where he had been responsible for sales in 13 states in addition to the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, Canada.

After Lenny's retirement, he and Carol, his wife of 57 years, traveled to many countries throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East where they found great joy experiencing the vibrant cultures, food, and architecture.

At his core, Lenny was an analytical person. He always looked at situations from every angle, sure to arrive at the best solution. His wisdom and logical thinking will be sorely missed, as will his sense of humor which was spontaneous and wonderful.

Lenny's greatest pleasure was being in the company of his family. Being all together on vacations and holidays filled him with joy. A favorite annual vacation with the family was at the Rhode Island shore where he enjoyed much family camaraderie clammimg, crabbing, card playing, cocktail hour and treating his family to an annual lobster feast on the back lawn overlooking the water at sunset.

His memory lives on with his wife Carol, son Gregory and his wife Marge, daughters Debra Morhardt and her husband Kemp, and Katie Peterson and her husband Brad. He also leaves his much loved grandchildren Sarah, Laura, Allison, Adam, Emily, Megan, and Charlie.

Funeral services will be Thursday, December 16, 2021 with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Calling hours will be Wednesday from 4-7 pm at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. Directions and online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Molloy Funeral Home

906 FARMINGTON AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

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Appleton, Heidi Nicole



Heidi Nicole Appleton, 27, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 5th due to cardiac complications, with her loving parents by her side. Heidi was born in Hartford, CT on April 1, 1994. Though small in stature, "Mighty Heidi", was known for her fighting spirit. She faced numerous medical challenges related to DiGeorge Syndrome with resolve, determination, and grace beyond her years. Beloved by her family and friends, Heidi cherished being dockside with her grandparents and cousins at the Vermont lake house or walking the beach in Sea Island, Georgia. Heidi's wit kept everyone smiling. She made lifelong friends along the way specifically through the Best Buddies program at Eastern Connecticut State University, and at Manchester Community College. We would especially like to acknowledge Brielan, Kate, Sarah, Casey, and Anna who not only encouraged, but supported new experiences that gave her confidence and a robust social calendar. While she was less than enthusiastic with her nickname "The Little Chef", Heidi was an avid cook. She loved to plan a good meal and share it with family. She graduated from RHAM High School in 2013 and had completed coursework for her Associate's Degree at Manchester Community College in Food Service Management. Her passion for cooking carried on outside the classroom as she worked several summers at Camp Horizons preparing meals for special needs campers. Her impact on those around her was profound. She will forever be remembered for her deep kindness, simple honesty, and authentic advocacy for others with special needs. Heidi loved Disney and was a Harry Potter enthusiast; a self-proclaimed Hufflepuff. Perhaps it was the whimsy and magic she could most relate to as she embodied it herself. She reveled in the simple pleasures of a good iced drink and the quest for the perfect spaghetti and sausage recipe. Young children and animals were drawn to her gentle, fun, and kind spirit. Her cats Ollie, Harry, and Lizzie will especially miss her presence but are grateful for her depth of love and constant attention. Heidi is survived by her parents Yvonne Bolton and Michael Appleton, her sisters Mallory and Janine, grandparents Pat Appleton and Margret and Bill Sovey, Aunts and Uncles: Kevin and Pam Appleton, Fred and Julia Gabriele, Paul and Caitlin Appleton, John and Patti Bolton, Mike and Kristin Bolton and cousins: Will, Tom, Tyler, Monika, Emily, James, Liam, Johnny, Kyle, Katie, Victoria, and Christian. She will be joining her grandfathers, Fred Appleton and Ed Bolton in Heaven. Heidi was one of a kind and we will always admire the confidence she carried throughout her life. Our sweet Heidi Pie will be missed terribly. The family wishes to thank the many doctors and health care workers who assisted with her care throughout her short life, particularly Dr. Diana, Dr. Upadhyay (Dr. Shai), Whitney Fairchild APRN, Dr. Orsey, Dr. Pfulwani, along with the caring and committed staff at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Camp Horizons, the Best Buddies program, the CT Humane Society, the CT Children's Medical Center, and Boston Children's Hospital. Calling hours and Celebration of Life for all will take place in the spring near her birthday weekend. Details will be forthcoming. We invite you to visit and contribute to the online memory board created as a forum to share pictures, memories and messages to Heidi. The link is: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/88h8GT6Z#view>. For on-line condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com

MULRYAN
FUNERAL HOME

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Dziadul, Barbara M.



Barbara Mary Dziadul, 80, of Broad Brook, beloved wife of Ralph Dziadul, passed away Saturday, December 11, 2021, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born January 10, 1941 in Hartford, Connecticut, the daughter of the late Lucian and Josephine (Kapinos) Chmielecki. After raising her large family, which she was very proud of, she

worked for several years as a Hospice nurse. Besides her loving husband, Ralph, she is survived by her children, Vince Zurawek and his wife Sonja of the Netherlands, Cindy Scott of Simsbury, Liz Mahoney of Rocky Hill, Eric Zurawek and his wife Melodi of Ellington, Rebekah Freeman and her husband Jason of Indiana, John Dziadul and his wife Susan of South Windsor, and Daniel Dziadul and his wife Andrea of Broad Brook; her siblings Mabel Coffman, Richard Chmielecki, and Hank Chmielecki. Barbara lovingly earned the title "Boppie" (Babcia) by her 29 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by siblings Jo Brightman, Lucian Chmielecki, Carl Chmielecki, Helen Andrews and David Chmielecki. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 4 to 7 pm on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at the Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home, 37 Gardner Street, East Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10am on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at St. Philip Church, 150 S. Main Street, East Windsor. (Masks and social distancing will be required at the Church service.) Burial will follow at St. Catherine Cemetery, Broad Brook. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com.

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Brown, Peter L.



Peter L. Brown passed away December 11, 2021, surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Peter was born one of 6 children in Hartford, CT on August 18, 1933, to the late Edward and Mary Lee Brown. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother Christopher Brown and sisters Mary Lee McCabe and Virginia Walsh; stepson Todd Kittleson; and granddaughter Kara Danila. He is survived by his wife Sandra Brown; children Peter Lee Brown, Mark Brown and his wife Antoinette, Ted Brown and his wife Nancy,



Kevin Kittleson, Lara Danila and Peggy Pitz; his 14 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Peter served during the Korean conflict as an MP in Yokohama, Japan. After an honorable discharge from the Army, Peter began a business selling aluminum siding and windows. With hard work and integrity—and a little help from Bob Steele's voice every morning at 7:30AM exclaiming, "Paint? Not this house! Another aluminum siding job by The Peter L. Brown Company!"—the business grew to be known throughout Southern New England. Peter served as president and treasurer until his retirement in 1990 when his son Ted took over the company. Peter developed the E. Granby Medical and Business Center property and was on the advisory board of Simsbury Bank and a director at Gas Turbine. Peter was a long-time member and ex-Commodore of The Hartford Canoe Club.

Peter and his wife, Sandy, loved spending time with family and traveling throughout the U.S. and to many countries, but they held a special fondness for Tortola, BVI where he spent over 50 winters and fondly acquired the honorary title of "Mayor." It was Sandy and Peter's great joy to receive frequent visits from friends and family where smiles and laughter always centered around them. Peter was a man of great integrity and honor, and all who knew and met him respected and liked him—without exception. He will be missed but he left this world a better place.

A visitation for Peter is planned from 1PM to 3PM on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road in Avon. The funeral service will immediately follow. Refreshments will be served. Guests are kindly invited to wear a mask. A celebration of Peter's life will be held August 18, 2022. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT at <https://www.holeinthewallgang.org/get-involved/>, or to The House of Bread in Hartford at <https://www.hobread.org/>. To view Peter's service online or to share a condolence message with the family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Parsons, Patricia Carroll



Patricia Carroll Parsons died peacefully, after an extended illness, on December 9, 2021 at Geer Lodge, where she had been a resident for the past year. Born in Hartford on September 4, 1934 to the late Bernard J. and Antoinette (Beauchene) Carroll, Pat attended local schools in Hartford and worked at The Hartford Insurance Company

beginning at age 16. She married Edward G. Parsons, Jr. in 1955. They raised four children: Kimberley, Jacqueline, Christine, and Jeffrey. In her youth Pat was a dancer, and studied ballet, jazz and tap. Later on, she enjoyed performing in local community theater. She was inspired by Chef Julia Child and enjoyed creating new recipes and entertaining. When her children were in school, she began a cooking class for pre-teens in her home, covering the basics in culinary education. Following her divorce in 1985, Pat went back to work at The Hartford until her retirement in 1999. She enjoyed traveling, especially to Italy. Pat is survived by her brother, Peter Noel Carroll and his wife Edith Schmidt Carroll, and her children: Kimberley and husband Bill Whitaker; Jacqueline and husband Rob Heerz; Christine Warner; and Jeff Parsons. She also leaves five grandchildren: Lindsay and husband Chris Jondreau, Spencer and wife Kathryn Caine, Trent Warner, Jack Warner, and Daley Whitaker; and three great-grandchildren: Ruby Jondreau, Juniper Jondreau, and Elliott Caine. The family expresses grateful thanks to the medical professionals and staff at Hartford Hospital, Geer Village Senior Living, Winsted Home Care Services, and Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County.

A gathering of family and friends, with a service of remembrance, will be held Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 11:00 am in The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Rt. 4, Unionville followed by burial in St. Mary Cemetery, Avon. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 280285, East Hartford, CT 06128 or to The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasury, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203. To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARIES

Hetzel, Mark Stephen



Mark Stephen Hetzel, 66, of East Haddam, CT passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 with his family by his side. Mark is survived by his beloved wife of 39 years, Denise (Shefcyk) Hetzel, daughter Leah (Hetzel) Mills and her husband Cody of Dover, NH. He is also survived by his special niece Holley Hetzel, sisters Gail Stone and Carla Cooper, brother-in-law Dean Shefcyk and sisters-in-law Gail and Leslie Shefcyk, along with many dear cousins, nieces, nephews and life-long friends. He was preceded in passing by his parents, Ray & June and brother Michael Hetzel. Mark was born on September 15, 1955 in Middletown, grew up in Portland and was a 1974 graduate of Xavier High School. Anyone who was lucky enough to have known Mark, knew he was the most loyal, compassionate, hilarious and strong willed man. He was in the process of retiring at the end of this year from Pratt and Whitney after many years of service, Growing up in a family where celebrations centered around singing and storytelling, he had a lifelong love of music and playing his congas. His favorite hobbies were playing golf and cheering on his beloved New York Giants and Yankees. He valued family and friends above all else and he believed in enjoying life to the fullest. If you were lucky enough to be loved by Mark, you were loved deeply, truly and very well, A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, December 18th at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial will be private. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, on Friday, December 17th from 5-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Sepsis Alliance, www.sepsis.org

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Gagnon, Frances M.



Frances M. Gagnon, 96, died surrounded by her family on Dec 3, 2021. Frances was born and bred in Manchester and is where she and her late husband "Lee" met, married and raised their family. Together they spent 69 years together. Fran or Franny as she was better known, retired from Metropolitan Life Insurance Co after many years of service. Fran was a lifetime communicant of St James Church while being involved in many church activities throughout the years. Fran was a past member of the Ladies of St. James in her younger years while also enjoying being a Cub Scout Den Mother. She was also a member of a social group called Pants Pals. Later in her life she was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and at one point held the office of Regent. Another social group she absolutely loved was her Butterfly Club, always referring to her friends as her Butterflies. Fran is survived by her daughters Patricia Linn and her husband William of St Marys, KS, Lea LaVerne Shattuck of Heath MA, Mary Gagnon of Manchester and her daughter-in-law Kim Gagnon of East Hampton. She is also survived by her 16 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and her good friend and sister-in-law Frances Lupacchino along with several nieces and nephews. Besides her late husband, Fran was predeceased by her son John, three grandchildren Bernadette, Peter and Luke, her son-in-law Charlie Shattuck Jr. and her three brothers, Joseph, Rocco and Nunzio. Family and friends may call on the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 W. Center St., Manchester, on Thursday, December 16th, from 9:00-10:30 am, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. James Parish, 896 Main Street, Manchester. Burial to follow at St. James Cemetery. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.



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Krajewska, Jadwiga "Jadzia" (Lesinska)



Jadwiga "Jadzia" Krajewska, 96, of Vernon, CT, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 10, 2021. She was born in Jednorozec, Poland on June 8, 1925 to Leokadia and Stanislaw Lesinski. Jadzia was an independent person who persevered through tumultuous world events to build a lasting legacy.

She had just finished 7th grade when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, starting World War II. On several occasions during the Nazi occupation of Poland, the occupiers interrogated and beat her to get information about her brother, who was a member of the resistance. She never broke. After the war, she and her husband, Jan, opened a bakery in Jednorozec. Decades later, after coming to the United States, they opened Unicorn Polish Bakery in Vernon, named after their hometown, Jednorozec, which means "unicorn." She worked at the bakery until two years ago. An active member of the Polish-American community, she never missed celebrations of Polish Independence Day and Constitution Day, at which she sometimes read her patriotic poetry. She also loved July 4th celebrations, embracing her adopted home. She avidly followed politics and world events, especially Polish and American news, reading newspapers and watching TV news.

Jadzia is survived by her children Elzbieta Matysiak, Zbigniew Krajewski, Krzysztof Krajewski, Piotr Krajewski; 9 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren; and many cousins in the USA, Poland, England and Australia. She was predeceased by her husband Jan Krajewski and second husband Jean Jassak; and by her siblings, Stanislaw Lesinski, Kazimierz Mieczyslaw Lesinski, Marian Lesinski, Genowefa Lesinska-Roman, and Henryk Lesinski.

Her family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 15, 4-7 p.m., at the Waszkelewicz South Green Memorial Home, 43 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Thursday, December 16, 10 a.m., at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 61 Popieluszkco Court, Hartford, CT. Burial will follow at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Jadzia's memory may be made to SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Attn: Restoration Fund, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Raleigh, Robert E.



Robert E. Raleigh, 97, of Southington, husband of the late Ruth (York) Raleigh, passed away on Friday, December 10, 2021 in the comfort of his own home surrounded by loved ones. Born on July 12, 1924 in Kings Creek, KY., he was the son of the late Steven and Mary Jane (Maggard) Raleigh. Robert was employed by Marlin Rockwell, Plainville, CT where he retired as a general foreman. In his younger years Robert was an accomplished musician who could play five instruments and even recorded a few albums. He also loved to hunt and fish and was also a master watch maker. Robert was a veteran of the US Army WWII serving in Africa and Europe and was a member of The American Legion, Kiltonic Post #72 of Southington. He was a member of The Watch Makers Guild, and was also a master Mason in his earlier years. Robert is survived by his children, Robert E. Raleigh Jr. of Kentucky, Steven G. Raleigh of Southington, and Pamela Hill and her husband Timothy of New Hartford. He was also Grampa to Brian Ahearn, Ashley Hill, Matthew Hill, Emily Hill, Jacob Raleigh and Rachel Raleigh. Robert was predeceased by his daughter Carol Ahearn, and by his eight brothers and three sisters. Friends and relatives are invited to join the family on Thursday, December 16, 2021 from 5 to 8 pm at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington, CT 06489. A service for Robert will be held at the funeral home on Friday morning at 11:00 AM. Burial will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery where he will be laid to rest next to his wife, Ruth. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Robert's memory may be made to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10306. To leave an online condolence or for directions, please visit www.dellavecchiasouthington.com.

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Bielawiec, Dolores Joan (Wilus)



Dolores Joan Bielawiec, 89, of Hartford, beloved wife for 59 years of the late Ronald Bielawiec, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, surrounded by her family at her home. Born in Hartford on October 5, 1932, daughter of the late Albert and Sophie (Starsiak) Wilus, she was a lifelong resident of Hartford and a graduate of SS. Cyril & Methodius School and Bulkeley High School, Class of 1950. Dolores worked in the insurance industry for many years before staying home to raise her two children. After her children were in school, she returned to work part-time and held several jobs in the Hartford area. A devout Catholic throughout her life, Dolores was a lifelong parishioner of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford. In her spare time, Dolores enjoyed caring for her family and participating in her children's and later her grandchildren's sports and activities. For many years, Dolores also supported her husband who was very active in city and state politics and in the Republican party. She leaves a daughter, Diane Thorne and her husband John of South Windsor; a son, Daniel Bielawiec and his wife Kathleen of Wethersfield; two brothers, Henry Wilus of Wethersfield and Ronald Wilus and his wife Bozena of Falls Church, VA; four grandchildren whom she cherished, Sophia and Julia Thorne both of South Windsor, and Emily and Andrew Bielawiec both of Wethersfield; and many nieces and nephews. Her family will receive friends on Friday, December 17, 5 to 8 p.m., at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Saturday, December 18, 10:00 a.m., at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 61 Popieluszkco Court, Hartford. Burial will follow in St. Augustine Cemetery, Glastonbury. Memorial donations may be made to SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Restoration Fund, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. The family would like to extend a special thanks to her caregiver, Ania for her faithful and devoted care over the last several years. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Barry, Adelaide Arleen



Adelaide Arleen (Wentzel) Barry, 95, of Farmington, loving wife of 59 years to the late William Henry Barry Jr., passed away December 10, 2021 at her home. Born February 10, 1926 in Fisher, MN, she was the daughter of the late Juluis and Clara (Pernella Johnson) Wentzel. Adelaide's greatest love was her family. She is survived by her children, Robert Barry and his wife Debra, Kathleen Lesperance and her husband Paul, and Colleen Barry, her daughter-in-law Dianne Barry and her partner James Hinkle, her grandchildren, Shane Barry, Adam Barry and his wife Margaret, Kelly Williams, Ryan Barry and his wife Jennifer, Samantha Barry, Jessica Maruszewski and her husband Neil, Barry Miller and his wife Cindy, Daniel Lesperance, Amy Han and her husband Brendon, Samantha Herget and Bridget Barry, her great-grandchildren, Taylor Selph and her husband Chris, Chris Barry, Geoffrey Barry, Alexander Barry, Jacob Williams, Devon Barry, Morgan Herget, Michael Herget, Aubri Herget, Garrett Jilka, Hayden Jilka, Ethan Barry, Avery Barry and Reid Maruszewski, and her great-great-grandchildren, Kaydence Bundrum and Declan Barry. She was predeceased by three sons, Patrick Barry, John Barry and Timothy Barry. Adelaide was always smiling. She cared deeply for her family and friends and always made everyone feel special and loved. She loved to play rummy, take pictures and go out to her favorite local restaurants. Adelaide was a dedicated Red Sox fan and followed every game. She modeled professionally in her younger years, worked in the Directory Dept. for the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. and regularly volunteered in her church. Adelaide also resided in Portland, OR, Garden Grove, CA, and spent more than 40 years in West Hartford, CT. She will be dearly missed. Friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Rt. 4, Unionville on Thursday (Dec. 16) from 4:00-7:00pm. Funeral Services will be held Friday (Dec. 17) at 11:00am in Bethany Lutheran Church, 1655 Boulevard, West Hartford. All are kindly asked to meet directly at church. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bethany Lutheran Church, 1655 Boulevard, West Hartford, CT 06107. To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

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Rich, Mary Antoinette



Mary Antoinette (Fulco) Rich, 93, passed away peacefully on December 11, 2021 at Mapleview Manor in Rocky Hill, CT where she resided for the last 5 years. Prior to that, she resided in Wethersfield, CT for 45 years. Mary was born in Hartford, CT on January 17, 1928 to Domenic and Theresa Fulco. She grew up on Magnolia Street and attended public schools. After 2 years of college, she traveled to Europe with her parents and visited several countries, but Italy was by far the highlight for her and was a talking piece for many years to come. Mary worked for the US Government as a Federal employee in the Administration Office of Women's Business. Mary was sophisticated and incredibly talented and lead a team of professionals over her 20-year career. In 1969, walking to lunch, she met the love of her life. Louis B. Rich who also worked for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Louie and Mary were married in April of 1969 and they built their life together in Wethersfield, CT where they welcomed a son, Mary's pride and joy, Neil. Her sister Betty was her best friend. Mary's family was everything and her happiest times were spent with her family at the Lake, summer road trips to Saratoga, trips to Disney World or spending quality time with her grandchildren. Her sense of humor, her giggle and overall warm and loving heart will be treasured and missed by all who knew her. Mary is survived by her son, Neil J. Rich, and his wife Melissa of Lebanon, CT; a daughter, Lois White and her husband Cliff of Berlin, CT; her granddaughters, Amanda M. Rich of Gilbert, AZ, Alyssa Fraioli of New Britain, CT, Braelyn Grimes of Raleigh, NC; her grandson, Ian J. Grimes of Milford, MA; and her great granddaughter, Maddox Mary Peterson of Gilbert, AZ. Mary also leaves behind two daughters-in-law, Barbara Rich and Pat Rich as well as a host of nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by a daughter, Irene A. Sorenson; two sons, Stephen & Louis Rich; her parents, her sister Elizabeth Lo'Stimolo, her brothers Paul, Nick, Dominic and Frank Fulco. We take comfort in knowing she was welcomed by her loving family. Funeral services and burial services will be private. Mary was committed to her faith. Please feel free to share a contribution with the Church of Incarnation, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109 in memory of Mary. A very special thank you to the staff of Mapleview Manor for providing Mary with such loving and dignified care over the last 5 years. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com.

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Rossi, Camilla "Millie" (Sorano)



A wonderful lady left her physical form to begin her spiritual journey. Camilla "Millie" (Sorano) Rossi, of Rocky Hill, beloved wife of the late Patrick J. Rossi, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2021, just days after her 95th birthday, at Hartford Hospital surrounded by her family. Millie was born on December 6, 1926 and was the daughter of the late Frank and Mary (D'Anzi) Sorano. Millie worked for many years as a secretary for the Travelers Insurance Company, then was blessed to enjoy a long and wonderful retirement. A gifted artist, Millie was a member of the Wethersfield Art League. Most of all, she was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She will be sadly missed by her children, John Michael and his wife Linda Rossi of MA, Patricia Ann Yagmin of Rocky Hill and Joan Burgie of East Hartford. She also leaves her cherished grandchildren, Joe Rossi, Jennifer Burgie, Steven Burgie, Anthony Yagmin and his wife Patricia, Dan Yagmin Jr., Patrick Yagmin, Angela Rossi, Adam Rossi and their mom, Chris Rossi, her great-grandchildren, Isabella and Anthony Yagmin Jr. and Logan Rossi, her many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends, along with the staff and her friends at the Atria Greenridge in Rocky Hill. In addition to her husband and parents, Millie was predeceased by her siblings, Rocco Sorano, Frank "Sonny" Sorano, Ann Cronkhite and Mary Tims along with her son-in-law Daniel Yagmin, Sr. Millie loved each and every one of you and always cherished you and the love you gave her. The family would like to thank the staff at the Jefferson House in Newington for their exceptional care and dedication to Millie. The family will receive relatives and friends on Wednesday, December 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. The family has requested everyone wear masks and to refrain from personal contact during the visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 16, at 10 a.m. at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish (St. James Church), 767 Elm Street, Rocky Hill. Everyone is asked to meet directly at church. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Donations in Camilla's memory may be made to the Wethersfield Art League, 193 Wells Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109. To share a memory of Camilla with her family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.



D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Pistilli, Joseph



Mr. Joseph Pistilli, 64, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, departed this life on Friday, December 10, 2021. Joseph (also known as Joe or Joey) was born on September 29, 1957 in Meriden, CT to the late Joseph Jr. and Claudia (Middleton) Pistilli. In his younger days he managed before becoming owner of his grandfather's business, Orum Silver Co. He was a very talented master silversmith and one of a kind in his trade. Joe was an avid boater, loved spending time on the water with family and friends. He loved riding his motorcycle in his spare time. Joseph was a great friend to many and devoted to helping anyone in need. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Cheryl (Haney) Pistilli. Two daughters Jessica and her husband Brian Pulaski, Melissa Pistilli, his grandson Zachary that he cherished. His brothers, Daniel Pistilli and his wife Debbie Milewski, Rick and his wife Karen Pistilli; nephew Kevin and niece Katie Pistilli. Friends are invited to calling hours on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 5 to 7 PM at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 North Main Street, Southington, CT 06489. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Joseph's family requests that in lieu of flowers or gifts donations be made to Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

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OBITUARIES

Lovesky, Isabel S (Daskin)

Isabel (Daskin) Lovesky, longtime resident of Newington, Avon and finally Masonicare at Mystic died Friday December 10, 2021 after several months of declining health. She was born in Bronx, NY on May 8, 1934. She enjoyed a long career teaching elementary school, mainly at the Elizabeth Green School in Newington. She loved her summers in the Berkshires and was an avid patron of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood.

Beloved wife of 48 years to the late Jerome Lovesky, a former attorney in Greater Hartford. Isabel was a devoted caregiver to Jerry during the last 12 years of his life. She leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Ilene and Edwin Ladd of Lewisburg, PA; son and daughter-in-law, David and Betty Anne Lovesky of Charlestown, RI; and son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Elaine Lovesky of Hingham, MA; seven grandchildren, Cara (Nick) Keenan, Nicole Lovesky, Ezra Lovesky, Asher Lovesky, Daniel (Laura) Ladd, Rachel Ladd, and Sarah Ladd, as well as two great grandchildren. The family would like to thank the staff at Avalon Health Center at Stoneridge for the loving care provided to Isabel.

Private funeral services were held December 13, 2021, at the Congregation B'nai Sholom Cemetery, Wethersfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd S #4b, Southington, CT 06489.

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Crowley, Jr., Gerald J.



Gerald J. "Jerry" Crowley, Jr., 83, of East Hartford, the beloved husband of Theresa "Sheila" (Gousse) Crowley, died Thursday, December 9, 2021, at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Concord, NH, he was the son of Margaret Crowley of Manchester and the late Gerald J. Crowley and had lived in East Hartford for many years. He was a US Navy veteran and had retired from the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier after many years of service. In addition to his wife Sheila, he is survived by his son Kevin Crowley of East Hartford; his grandsons Corey Davis of Bristol and Logan Townsend of East Hartford, his sister-in-law Karen Pelletier of Colchester; his brother-in-law Charles Gousse and his wife Judy of South Windsor; his nieces Sherri Gousse of Enfield and Jocelyn Espinoza and husband John of Hebron and his nephews Dean Gousse of Enfield and Jacob Pelletier and his wife Filomena of West Babylon, New York. He was also predeceased by his son Shaun Crowley. Jerry's keen sense of humor caused lots of laughter with family and friends and he loved the many ski trips with his cousin Jeff and wife Carol.

Family and friends may call at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home on Thursday, December 16th from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Thursday at 12:00 pm followed by burial with military honors at Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.



JOHN F. Tierney
TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM

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Remington, Bruce G



Bruce G. Remington, 84, life-long resident of Suffield passed away on Saturday, December 11, 2021, with his wife and children by his side. Born in Springfield, MA on February 11, 1937, son of Harold Sr. and Belle (Hue) and brother and best friend, Harold Jr., who all predeceased him. Bruce graduated from Suffield High School Class of 1954 and studied accounting at UCONN and American International College. His professional career was spent in accounting and management roles for a number of companies. He retired as business manager from Enfield Chrysler Plymouth. He enjoyed his retirement years working at Airways Golf Course. Bruce was a U.S. Army Veteran and lifelong community servant of Suffield. He served in elective office across four decades including Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, culminating with 31 years as Chairman of the WPCA. He also served as a member of the Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame, volunteered his time coaching and umpiring Little League and served Suffield High's athletics program as an official of various sports for 30 years.

Bruce is survived by the love of his life, wife of 56 years, Kathleen (Smith), his children Eric and his wife Dianne, Tara Beaulieu and her husband Christopher, Kris Pryce and her husband Rick all of Suffield. He leaves behind his pride and joy, his seven grandchildren. Lauren and Connor Beaulieu, Samantha and Alec Pryce, Thomas, Paige, and Kathleen Remington. Also left to cherish his memory are his nieces and nephews, Ruth, Brian, and Meghan, and great niece and nephews Shylin, Tristan, Brian, and Patrick.

He and Kathleen took great pleasure in having their children and grandchildren all within arm's length and instilling his love of the family farm and twelve generations in Suffield. Few people are lucky enough to have their children and grandchildren live next door. The family compound was constantly full of the sound of Bruce mowing someone's lawn or riding his Gator to keep tabs on his brood.

He had a menagerie of animals through the years including cows, goats, horses, and dogs. He also enjoyed years of car racing at Riverside and Stafford, both watching and participating in the pits. He could often be found watching NASCAR races, UConn Women's Basketball, the NY Yankees and NY Giants.

His family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home, 443 East St. N. (Rt. 159), Suffield. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 11:00 AM at the funeral home followed by burial with military honors in Woodlawn Cemetery, Suffield.

Memorial Donations in Bruce's memory may be made to Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 642, Suffield, CT 06078. To leave on-line condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Meade, Robert L.



Robert L. Meade, 93 of West Hartford passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

Born and raised in Hartford, CT, Robert spoke little of his early years but did like to say that he came into the world with the Depression, won a most beautiful baby contest, thanks to his red and curly hair, saw the Hindenburg as it flew by Hartford in 1937 before its fatal end and spent enjoyable time working on a farm as a teenager, where he found simple pleasures such as good food.

Son of William and Florence (Larkin) Meade, he is predeceased by his three siblings, William Meade, Jr., Marilyn Daley and Donald Meade. Robert answered to Bob, Uncle Bob, an occasional Bobby, Grandpa, and in many situations, just Mr. Meade. He was particularly proud to use Larkin as his middle name, in honor of his mother.

Married in 1956 to Mary Rusek Meade, together they purchased a then brand new home in the Elmwood section of West Hartford in 1957, where they lived together for the next 60 years until Mary's passing in 2017. A special credit is given to the wonderful care of Elizabeth with Right-at-Home Agency, which allowed Robert to live comfortably in his own home until being called by God.

Robert is survived by his two beloved children, Michael Meade (Wethersfield, CT) and Ruth Meade-Roux (France) and their respective spouses, Jamie Stross-Meade and Philippe Roux; as well as six grandchildren, Christopher Meade and his spouse Elizabeth, Stephen Meade, Andrew Meade, Samantha Hayes and her spouse Trevor, Meredith Roux, Jeanne Roux and two lively and joyful great-grandchildren, Piper and Ethan Meade; as well as his nieces and nephews.

Robert served his country during WWII with his brother Bill, who was truly his best friend through "thick and thin" from childhood to adulthood. Armistice was signed sometime during the cross Atlantic voyage, but immediate post-war duties were required in Germany, France and Italy thus a full four-year service. Many years later, when his daughter Ruth married and moved to France, there was hesitation about returning to Europe, but a first trip in 1985 preceded several other lovely and enriching trips he made with his wife Mary, especially enjoying the Christmas holidays spent with his grand-daughters Meredith and Jeanne.

Professionally, Robert worked in insurance after the war in Chicago, in New York City and mostly as an independent agent for many years in Hartford and West Hartford. He was active in the West Hartford Democratic town committee as well. Active parishioner of St Brigid Church, Robert was an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus, St Brigid Council #14216 and member of VFW post 254.

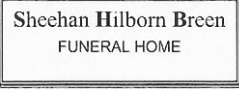
Extremely witty and out-going in company, Robert was nonetheless quite satisfied with a quiet family life, always present for his children at ball games and school activities. He was very active at home, extremely supportive of Mary's career and encouraged his children in their endeavors. Reading, taking daily walks in Elmwood, finding "treasures" along the way and enjoying a Yankee game from the comfort of his armchair were his simple pleasures.

He was proud of his children and grandchildren and his family will warmly remember his smile and razor-sharp humor and are blessed to have had him in their lives.

Family and Friends may call on Thursday (December 16) from 9:00-10:30 am. at Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday (December 16) 11:00 am at St. Brigid Church, 1088 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Mt St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield.

In lieu of flowers in Robert's memory, please donate to a Veteran's cause. Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com



Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
PATRICIA H. DRONEY



5/31/1935-12/14/2018



It's been three years since you left us but not a day goes by that we don't think of you.

We miss you so much but for every sad thought there is a happy memory and for every heartache there is the warm glow of a love that will never fade.

Go dti an t-am nuair mbeimid le cheile aris.

Your loving husband, children and grandchildren.

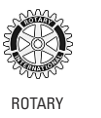
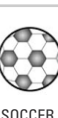
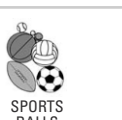


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 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	 MARINES 2	 LIONS CLUB
 METHODIST CHURCH	 ORTHODOX COMBINED CROSS	 PRAYER HAND
 ORTHODOX RUSSIAN CROSS	 STAR OF DAVID	 ROTARY
 POLICE BADGE	 CORE ORGAN DONOR	 BOXING
 MASONIC	 ANGEL	 BALLOONS
 BASEBALL	 BASKETBALL	 BUTTERFLY
 CHECKERED FLAG	 DOVE	 EAGLE
 FOOTBALL	 GOLF	 HEART SHADED
 HEART BLANK	 MOTORCYCLE	 MUSIC NOTE
 ROSE	 SHAMROCK	 SOCCER
 SPORTS BALLS	 STAR FILLED	 STAR OPEN
	 TEDDY BEAR	

Hartford Courant
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HARTFORD

Legislators look for answers to kids’ mental health

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

State legislators pressed representatives of state agencies about their strategies to address a continued crisis in children’s behavioral health care during a forum of the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee on Monday afternoon.

“The most important thing is that we try to get it right and even to question ourselves and say, what we have funded, was that the right area?” said State Rep. Toni Walker, D-New Haven, a co-chair of the committee.

Children’s mental health care, which has emerged as one of the top priorities for legislators in the upcoming legislative session, has reached a crisis point in the state, providers say, with emergency departments overloaded with children seeking urgent care, an understaffed health care workforce, and community-based providers struggling to meet increased demand.

While speakers during the forum pointed to the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mounting issues in children’s mental health and strained the state’s health care workforce,

others made clear that long-term disinvestments in behavioral health care were also to blame.

“What I would say about the cliff is, it’s here, folks,” said Rep. Cathy Abercrombie, D-Meriden. “This cliff isn’t two years down the road. This cliff is here. And the reason why we have a cliff is 10 years of cuts in the human services budget.”

Representatives from state agencies presented to legislators a range of state- and federally-funded initiatives aimed at bolstering the mental health of residents under the age of 18.

At the state Department of

Children and Families, initiatives funded by the American Rescue Plan Act include directing \$1 million annually for two years toward 12 intensive transition care management teams; \$1.4 million annually for two years toward enhancing the state’s mobile crisis response; \$1 million toward developing an urban trauma network and \$2 million annually for two years toward developing behavioral health urgent care centers and crisis stabilization centers.

An initiative funded through about half a million dollars from the federal Health Resources

and Services Administration is earmarked for expanding ACCESS Mental Health, a program that supports primary care providers in delivering behavioral health care.

“This particular expansion provides an opportunity to offer more real-time psychiatric consultation and care coordination to primary care physicians across the state,” DCF commissioner Vanessa Dorantes said, noting that the services is provided regardless of insurance coverage.

More than \$1.7 billion in federal

Turn to Health, Page 2



Linda Halligan and Bernard Halligan Jr. lived at 6 Woodleigh Place in Simsbury. SEAMUS MCAVOY

SIMSBURY

Husband, wife dead after domestic violence shooting

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Simsbury police confirmed Monday that a local man fatally shot his wife and then killed himself in their home Sunday evening.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner said Monday that Linda Halligan, 57, died from a gunshot wound to the head and her husband Bernard Halligan Jr.,

59, fatally shot himself.

The shooting at 6 Woodleigh Place in the Weatogue section of town happened shortly before 5:20 p.m., police said. The couple’s 18-year-old daughter ran from the home and went to a neighbor’s for help. The neighbors called 911.

Officers arrived within minutes, went into the house and removed a seriously wounded woman later identified as Linda Halligan, police said. They administered first aid

until medics arrived and took her to Saint Francis Hospital, where she later died.

“They did everything they could to save her life,” Deputy Chief Chris Davis said Monday morning.

Not knowing where the shooter was, police said they called other agencies for help, including a SWAT team. They also sent out automated, “reverse 911” messages

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FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Student charged with carrying gun on school grounds

Police emphasize no threat was made

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Police on Monday charged a 14-year-old student with possessing a gun at Farmington High School, but said the arrest wasn’t connected to an alleged shooting threat that touched off widespread anxiety last week.

Investigators didn’t release information about the student, but said they began investigating Dec. 7 - the same day that roughly 40 percent of the student body stayed home because of rumors about a shooting threat. Police and school administrators emphasized that the talk of a threat turned out to be based on misinformation.

Educators said a student — possibly alarmed by community-wide discussion of the alleged threat — told a staff member late in the day Dec. 7 about a 14-year-old having a gun on school property on Dec. 3.

Police didn’t give details about where the gun was or why the student had it, but after an investigation they arrested the student Monday. The accused student hadn’t been back to class since Dec. 6; they didn’t specify where the arrest was made.

“Possession of a firearm on

school grounds is a disturbing event and a severe violation of school safety; however, the investigation did not reveal any threats of gun violence associated with this incident,” police said in a written statement Monday afternoon.

Police charged the student with possessing a weapon on school grounds, carrying a pistol without a permit, possessing a weapon in a vehicle and risk of injury to a minor.

“The gun has not been recovered, and the youth is currently being held in a state juvenile detention center,” police said.

In a message to parents, Farmington High School said any student possessing a gun on or off school grounds must be expelled for up to a year.

Extra police were assigned to the school as a precaution last week and will remain this week, educators said. Extended-hours counseling was being offered Monday and Tuesday until 4 p.m., Superintendent Kathleen Greider and Principal Scott Hurwitz said.

“Knowing that the FHS community has been through a great deal in recent days, we

Turn to Gun, Page 2

Connecticut officials celebrate, honor National Guard on 385th birthday

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Public and military officials gathered Monday at the William A. O’Neill State Armory in Hartford for a celebration of the 385th birthday of the National Guard.

The celebration, attended by Gov. Ned Lamont, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, and U.S. Sen Chris Murphy, included a reenlistment oath for eight National Guard soldiers while officials lauded the Guard’s efforts during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

“We celebrate our people, our readiness and our enduring promise to the nation, and the 169 communities within this great state, that we have promised to support,” Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon, Jr. said. “We are always ready, and always there.”

The National Guard traces its founding to Dec. 13, 1636 — a time when it was only a loose network of militias, comprised of able-bodied men between 16 and 60 years old, to defend the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Guard is recognized as the oldest military force within the U.S. Department of Defense.

“Between us and Massachusetts, we often argue about who has the lineage to the oldest unit in our respective states, but that really goes back to our founding forefathers,” Evon said.

It wasn’t an argument for Lamont. “I know Massachusetts is a close second, but this is the oldest and the best guard in the country,” he said.

While an interstate rivalry over who has the oldest force may persist, Bysiewicz highlighted that Connecticut’s Guard members are



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Behuniak, left, and Specialist Matthew Luchuk cut the cake for a celebration of the National Guard’s 385th birthday. SEAMUS MCAVOY

the third-best vaccinated division in the country. Members of the Connecticut National Guard have also received booster shots at a higher rate than members in other states, Lamont noted.

National guard members have been receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, and also administering it. Guard medics received training in February to help get shots into arms as part of the state’s vaccination campaign.

Their efforts during the pandemic date back to the very beginning, when in late March the Guard converted a New Britain warehouse to facilitate the distribution of medical supplies and personal protective equipment.

“When there is a need, the Guard steps up, and steps up every day to say how can I help, how can I serve,” Lamont said. “For that, on behalf of the people of Connecticut, we are eternally grateful for everything

that you’re able to do.”

“This is a time in which we count our blessings, and here in this state, you are high on that list,” Murphy added.

There are more than 800 members of the Connecticut National Guard currently stationed overseas, according to Maj. Dave Pytlik, a Guard spokesperson. That includes about 600 based in the Horn of Africa, and several dozen who deployed to Poland in October.

“Poland now looks to be potentially on the front of a new conflict, as Russia mounts troops on the border of Ukraine,” Murphy said Monday. “This is a moment where the entire world is watching to see whether the post-World War II order can hold. It will be the U.S. military, it will be the Guard, that helps to answer that call.”

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Power industry execs approaching winter with fear as energy prices climb

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

The power industry is entering the winter season with dread.

With prices soaring for natural gas, oil and coal and climate change threatening weather extremes, power generators are bracing for the worst.

“I was recently at a board meeting with an RTO’s board of directors and they are deathly afraid of this winter,” Himanshu Saxena, chief executive officer of Starwood Energy Group LLC told an industry conference in Boston Monday, referring to a regional transmission organization, a grid operator.

“I think for winter ... it’s really

all hands on deck,” he said at the New England Energy Summit on Monday organized by the New England Power Generators Association.

Saxena said he has agreements to bring in gas, but “it’s not 100%” and unavailable gas was a key factor in the failure of the power grid in Texas in February, he said.

In addition, the price of coal is nearly 60% higher than last year because it’s being exported, Saxena said.

Critics may say they hate coal and other carbon-based fuels, Saxena said. “But even if 20% of them went away, your winter is going to look like a disaster,” he

Turn to Energy, Page 2



Energy executives said Monday they’re approaching winter with a sense of dread as energy prices climb and climate change brings extreme weather. Above, snow is piled by a loader in a shopping center in Vernon in February. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

CONNECTICUT



Claire Zick, Bryan Thurston, from left, Dan Russell, Matt Saccullo and Greg Ludovici perform in “An Improvised Christmas Carol” at Sea Tea Comedy Theater. **CHRISTOPHER ARNOTT**

REVIEW: SEA TEA COMEDY THEATER

‘An Improvised Christmas Carol’ deconstructs Dickens

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

Marley’s dead, but not much else is certain about “An Improvised Christmas Carol,” Sea Tea Comedy Theater’s holiday comedy staple. Never the same twice, the show’s been brought back for a two-week run, through Dec. 19, after a year off due to the COVID shutdown.

The cast is not at all rusty from not having redone Dickens in a while. They’re merry and bright. Or just go ahead of think of better words for what they are, since that’s what “An Improvised Christmas Carol” is all about.

The audience controls this show before it starts. This is not one of those improv nights where the action freezes every five minutes and someone essentially shouts “Tell us what to do now.” This is the Mad-Libs kind of improv, where a member of the cast asks for about 20 scene-setting words or phrases. Among them: a business. A movie style. An emotion. A funny swearword. “Something a boss would never say.” You know the drill. The process can get rather tedious, but there’s also some fun in audience members trying to out-clever each other.

Once the list is filled, you get to sit back and watch an uninterrupted hour-long “Christmas Carol” where, say, Tiny Tim has bronchitis, the Ghost of Christmas Present speaks in Dr. Seuss-style rhymes, and Ebenezer Scrooge is getting badgered to contribute to the United Ferret College Fund.

Thanks to modern miracle of microphones, the cast hears all the suggestions backstage as they’re first being suggested, and they rush out ready to go with no pause for a creative huddle. The objective is to tell a coherent, dramatic “Christmas Carol” while maneuvering all the odd stylistic and semantic obstacles they’ve placed in their own way. They succeed.

The same local cast has been doing the show in Hartford for years, adding their own twists to a framework first developed by an improv theater in Seattle in the mid-1980s.

Kevin MacDermott, who has been the sole Scrooge in every season of “An Improvised Christmas Carol” thus far, prowls the

stage like a stand-up comedian provocateur, ranting about truly random issues like (the Thursday suggestion) ferret charities. He’s skilled at slyly introducing a new concept into a scene so it hits you gradually that it’s one of the audience suggestions. That’s where some of the show’s biggest laughs come from. On Thursday, one of the pre-show requests was for “a place to live,” and the answer was “mom’s basement,” but it wasn’t until MacDermott entered a scene screaming “Moooooommmmm!” that it was clear that the basement was the miser’s own dwelling. Then an offstage Mom screamed back about what she’d made for dinner. Funny.

Some suggestions have much more power than others. On Thursday, Scrooge’s place of business was a cannabis dispensary, which meant stoner jokes all night long.

An awful lot of plain old non-improvised acting is also involved here, especially for the Scrooge character, who must ultimately get redeemed (or not — staying stingy is an option the audience can vote on). Whole lines of Dickens, like that surefire laugh-getter “If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population,” are delivered unimproved. “Bah, Humbug!” does not get off so easy.

The show’s done without sets, without props and without costumes. The cast is in street clothes, sitting or standing on black rehearsal blocks and miming whatever objects they need. Experimental theater styles and neo-realism blend with a frantic comic retelling of a classic.

There are seven people in the cast of “An Improvised Christmas Carol,” of whom only six perform on any given night. The odd person out of Thursday was Greg Ludovici, Sea Tea Comedy Theater’s artistic director. (There’s another valuable unseen member of the company who works every night, tech director Nate Gagnon.) Except for MacDermott as Scrooge, the actors freely switch up the main roles from night to night. If a performer has a special comic gift, they’re allowed room to use it. Dan Russell is adept at long winding deadpan stories which he

attaches to phrases suggested by an audience, who is so caught up in wondering “Where is he going with this?” that when the punchline arrives it’s uproarious. Bryan Thurston is splendid at interrupting with funny noises. Casey Grambo is a warm graceful presence, a comically calming presence for when things might be getting shouty elsewhere on stage. Matt Saccullo has the ability to elevate someone’s else joke concept with a just-as-funny follow-up.

The show’s director and producer (through her Hot Cocco Productions), Claire Zick, solicited all the variables from the audience at the outset of the show and otherwise took on a host of small roles. There’s an art to that too — not upstaging others, keeping a steady pace and tone. At Thursday’s show, they acknowledged there were children in the audience, nixed one of the more salacious audience suggestions, and shifted as one into non-offensive mode. Other nights, they could get dirtier.

There are precious, show-off elements to any improv show, but a well-oiled ensemble can be a wonder to behold. This one gets quite physical, dancing or jumping on blocks, but mostly it’s a pleasure to watch their agile minds at work, figuring out collectively onstage, through dialogue, how to get Scrooge from, for example, his mom’s basement to a Rusted Root concert with as many cool jokes as possible.

“An Improvised Christmas Carol” isn’t the only unpredictable holiday special on the Sea Tea Comedy Theater schedule. “Hark! The Harold Angels Sing: A 100% Made-Up Christmas Musical” happens Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. Other upcoming events include a reunion of the scene-based local female improv troupe Romantic Baby Dec. 18 at 10 p.m.

“An Improvised Christmas Carol” runs through Dec. 19 at Sea Tea Comedy Theater, 15 Asylum Street, Hartford. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. \$18, \$10 children. seateaimprov.com.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

Energy

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said.

“These once-in-a-hundred year weather events (are) now becoming once in 10 years, once in five years,” Saxena said.

Curtis Morgan, chief executive officer of Vistra Corp., a retail electricity and power generation company in Irving, Texas, said zero emission energy such as solar and wind do not generate enough power to keep a regional power system operating. ISO-New England, the region’s grid operator, “can have a fairly significant amount of their capacity coming in the form of offshore wind, which is going to create a significant challenge for reliability,” he said.

He criticized the independent system operators, or ISOs that operate regional power grids, for failing to resist demands for a faster shift to renewable energy.

“I want to see us transition but I don’t know who really, ultimately is going to call the shots,” Morgan said. “The ISOs have knuckled under to political pressure and they’re not speaking what they believe, I believe. I think they’re saying what the politicians want to hear.”

“I think you know what the end of this is. I think New England is the next region of the country that can have issues with having adequate supply of electricity,” Morgan said. “I’m not trying to scare people. I’m just telling you this is where this is headed.”

He called for a balance between “reliability, affordability and emissions.”

“Because right now there is such a huge focus on the emissions component,” Morgan. “But if we allow our electric grid without forethought, without reliability as the No. 1 thing you’re going to see this happen and it’ll happen up

here just as like it did in California and Texas.”

The gloomy outlook follows by one week a warning by ISO-New England that power outages are possible if an extended cold snap this winter grips the region and fuel supplies are pinched as demand spikes.

The president of ISO-New England, based in Holyoke, Mass., said the region’s grid is vulnerable to extreme weather while utilities, generators, regulators and others who make up the grid are looking to move away from carbon-based fuel.

Gary Lambert, chief executive officer of Competitive Power Ventures, an electric power generation development and asset management company in Silver Spring, Md., said regulators in New England put up too many regulatory hurdles that slow the expansion of generating or transmission systems.

“New England is a very parochial, difficult permitting environment for these kinds of resources,” he said.

Voters in Maine last month passed a referendum rejecting a transmission line that would bring hydroelectric power from Canada to Massachusetts. A company behind the project sued to overturn the vote.

“Massachusetts is looking for the Maine transmission corridor to get constructed and where we’re sitting with that, that situation is going to take a lot longer if they ever get done,” Lambert said.

“I’m very concerned about the price of natural gas this winter,” he said. “So far it’s been a warm winter. We may skirt through, and dare I say it would be nice to see a new pipeline bringing some of the cheaper resources from other places but that’s very, very difficult, if not impossible, to get done.”

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Health

from Page 1

elementary and secondary school emergency relief has been allocated to Connecticut, of which more than \$183 million is designated for improving the social, emotional and mental health of students and school staff, Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker told the committee.

Some schools have used that funding to work with local health providers to expand behavioral health services and expanded social-emotional learning teams, Russell-Tucker said. Across the state, there has been a 6% increase in full-time equivalent counselors, social workers and school psychologists.

Yet across the landscape of mental health care, workforce shortages continue to pose issues.

Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services Jordan Scheffs said that the department’s primary issue remains inadequate numbers of health care workers.

“Our private providers are experiencing significant staffing shortages across the entire sector, and the more complex the care, the harder it is to attract staff,” he said. “Agencies known for treating the most challenging folks are particularly struggling.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a preexisting staff shortage in mental health and nursing, said Kelli-Marie Vallieres, executive director of the Office of Workforce Strategy.

“Connecticut already had a shortage in registered nurses and other professionals prior to COVID-19, and that number has increased by over 100% since COVID-19 started,” she told the committee.

Vallieres noted that the health worker shortage is exacerbated by faculty shortages in degree-granting institutions. More than 7,000 qualified nursing students were denied admission to registered nursing programs due to faculty

shortages across the state, she said.

To address the dearth of providers, Vallieres proposed incentivizing mental health professionals to relocate their practices to Connecticut, creating alternative postsecondary pathways for degree-conferring programs, and offering scholarships to encourage students to enroll in mental health programs.

State Sen. Saud Anwar, D-South Windsor, a chair of the legislature’s Children’s Committee, reprimanded state agencies for not directly addressing the difficulty that many families currently have in finding an available child psychiatrist.

“No matter how powerful, how committed, how empowered you are in the state, you’re not going to be able to get a child psychiatrist for six months,” he said, adding that the state should focus on educating and retaining psychiatrists.

“If your plan is to get more nurses, then by all means,” he said to Vallieres. “But if you need to take care of children’s mental health and you don’t have psychiatrists in your plan, we will be here having another conversation in a few years, and I really don’t want you to have that. That could mean that hundreds of children have lost their lives.”

Vallieres replied that the department is curtailed in what it can do given the guardrails put on ARPA funding, but that the department is considering creating a fund for tuition reimbursement.

Anwar countered that ARPA funding should not be viewed as a panacea for the pediatric mental health crisis, which demands a comprehensive response.

“With the investments that we are going to make, I want people to make sure, and reassure me as well, that they don’t think that in two years, all the problems are going to go back to what they were in 2019, because they will not,” he said. “I’m worried about a cliff, because we are looking at ARPA as a Band-Aid.”

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Shooting

from Page 1

to residents warning them to stay inside.

“They weren’t sure if he had fled the house or not,” Davis said. “They were concerned he had fled and gone into a neighboring residence.”

Heavily armed police surrounded the neighborhood while teams searched a neighboring house and 6 Woodleigh. They found Bernard Halligan dead in the home’s garage, he said. The assisting officers were from North Central Emergency Services, North Central Crisis Negotiation Team and the Connecticut State Police.

The couple had two daughters, according to obituaries for Halligan’s parents. The older daughter was out of state at the time of the shooting, Davis said.

Assessment records show Linda Halligan owned the 4,300-square-foot house.

“It’s a very safe community. It’s a beautiful community,” Davis told reporters at the scene. “Obviously, these types of incidents can happen anywhere. It’s unfortunate that it happened here tonight. It’s a tragic situation.”

“Our hearts go out to the family and the friends of everybody involved,” Davis said.

He said Monday morning there already are signs that the tightknit community will rally around the family.

“The community will do everything we can to help the family,” he said.

Davis said the first-arriving police officers put themselves in harm’s way when they went in through the open front door of the house and saw Linda Halligan inside, badly

wounded, but still alive. They did so not knowing if the shooter was still there, he said.

“They were able to pull her out, start administering first aid,” Davis said. “I am proud of our officers’ response.”

Bernard Halligan Jr.’s LinkedIn account describes him as a commercial insurance executive.

Police continue to investigate the deaths with help from the Hartford State’s Attorney’s office and Major Crimes detectives from the state police.

Anyone with information about the deaths is asked to call Simsbury detectives at 860-658-3145.

Courant staff writers Christopher Keating and Daniela Altimari contributed to this report.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Gun

from Page 1

will continue to have counselors, social workers and psychologists available for support,” they wrote. “We also ask that you reach out to your child’s counselor, administrator and/or teacher if your child is experiencing increased fear or worry as a result of learning about this issue.”

Educators also invited parents to what they called a “school safety community forum” set for Monday at 7 p.m. at the school.

The school system told parents last week that police had investigated a supposed threat to shoot people at the school. Accounts of the threat were circulating heavily on social media, but none by anyone with firsthand knowl-

edge.

“After a full investigation, the Farmington Police Department determined that the alleged threat was not credible. As a reminder, a non-credible threat is one that has been determined to not be a safety or security risk to the school’s students, faculty and staff,” educators said Monday.

Greider’s Dec. 7 email to parents about the matter evidently prompted a student to report the Dec. 3 gun possession incident, police said.

The gun possession was “deeply disturbing and very serious,” Greider and Hurwitz said.

But it “was not in any way related to the original (safety) concern and did not involve the same individual(s) and/or the same type of concern,” they wrote.

CONNECTICUT

Windsor auction includes works by Sargent, Dufy, Christo

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

The tradition of a New Year's Day sale at Nadeau's Auction House in Windsor continues on Jan. 1, 2022, with a 700-lot sale that includes artworks by John Singer Sargent, Raoul Dufy, Maurice Utrillo and Jane Peterson, as well as vintage jewelry pieces, silver services and furniture.

Some items on sale are from the estate of Alexis Gregory, who founded the Vendome Press art book publishing house and sponsored the Vendome Prize in music. Gregory died in April 2020 of Parkinson's and COVID-19. The sale of those items will benefit the art-focused Alexis Gregory Foundation.

The estate of Louis Edmund Zacher of West Hartford, who was president of Travelers Insurance Company from 1929 to 1945, also is represented in the sale, as well as other collections and estates.

The item with the highest presale estimate is "Araut La Course: Epsom," a watercolor and gouache by Dufy (1877-1953), a well-known Fauvist painter. It has been estimated at \$100,000 to \$200,000.

A full-length portrait of woman in a black and red dress by legendary portraitist Sargent (1856-1925) is estimated at \$40,000 to \$80,000. A gouache winter landscape, "Le Lapin Agile Sous La Neige Montmartre," by Utrillo is estimated at \$25,000 to \$35,000. Peterson's oil on canvas "Road to Rocky Neck, East Gloucester" is estimated

at \$40,000 to \$80,000. A signed, three-dimensional 1971 work by Christo & Jeanne-Claude, "Package on Carozza, Project for A Chile Berdinger, Taranto, Italy," is estimated at \$40,000 to 80,000.

Among the furniture items are a signed 1930 sideboard by Emile Jacques Ruhlmann (1879-1933), estimated at \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Lots can be viewed at nadeausauction.com or at the gallery at 25 Meadow Road on Dec. 28 and 29 from noon to 4 p.m., Dec. 30 from 2 to 6:30 p.m., Dec. 31 from noon to 5 p.m. and Jan. 1 from 9 to 10 a.m. The sale starts Jan. 1 at 10 a.m.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.



John Singer Sargent's portrait of a woman in a black-and-red dress is one of the items on sale on Jan. 1 at an auction in Windsor. NADEAU'S AUCTION GALLERY/COURTESY

NEW BRITAIN

Hook and Ladder opens new location

Firefighters, police and EMTs get discounts

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

When Matt Butler's house in New Britain caught on fire in 2018, firefighters saved the house. So when Butler and his partner decided to launch a new restaurant, they turned it into an homage to first responders: The Hook and Ladder.

The pair started with a location in North Haven that has been open for almost two years, and just recently opened a location in downtown New Britain.

The Hook and Ladder offers a 25% discount to all firefighters, active or retired, and 15% discount to police officers, nurses, members of the military and other first responders.

The theme also refers to Butler's father, who was a police officer in Canton for 30 years. "Until last year, people didn't realize how much we needed these first responders," Butler said. "They don't get a lot of thank-yous out there. It's important we do our best for them."

Butler and his partner, Dave Etter of Hamden, used to own Box 63 in New Haven. They started their Hook and Ladder venture three months before COVID hit in March 2020.

"We took over Harry's Sports Grill. We ran it as that until COVID closed all the restaurants. When we reopened in June, it was Hook and Ladder," he said.

The food menu, developed by head chef Will Parks and prepared by New Britain chef Phil Conran, leans heavily toward comfort food. "Shrimp and grits, lobster mac-and-cheese, New York strip, we have comforting meals at a good price point," Butler said.

In addition to chowder, chili, wings, quesadillas, nachos, salads, burgers and flatbreads, Hook & Ladder serves entrees such as baked cod, steak with mashed potatoes, shrimp, fish and chips, veggie primavera, chicken alfredo and chicken parmigiana.

Butler said pizza will be added to the menu when that part of the kitchen is done. He also said a grab-and-go counter will be added to accommodate the boom in residential development in the downtown area. A downstairs function room also is being built.

The restaurant is known for its collection of specialty cocktails that have firefighting themes. The bar manager is Katie Varga. "Falling off the Ladder" has Captain Morgan,



Steak salad, cod, ribs, wings and garlic steak from The Hook and Ladder, which opened two years ago in North Haven.

Bacardi, banana liqueur, OJ, pineapple and cranberry. "Lights and Sirens" has Tanqueray, muddled lemon and basil, grapefruit juice and prosecco. "The Rescue" is lemon and sweet tea vodkas, iced tea and a simple syrup.

The beer menu has a generous rotating selection of Connecticut-made brews, including Still Hill of Rocky Hill, Hooker of Bloomfield, City Steam of Hartford, Sea Hag of Woodbridge, Counterweight of Hamden, Bad Sons of Derby and Cottrell of Pawcatuck. Also on the bar menu are red and white wines and a wide variety of whiskeys.

The Hook and Ladder is at 136 Main St., in the first floor of a 1903 building. The 5,300 square feet location seats about 120 people.

It is open Monday and Tuesday 3 to 11 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The original location is at 201 Washington Ave. in North Haven. It has the same hours and menu. thehookandladder.com.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.



The Hook and Ladder in North Haven has opened a second location in New Britain.

NORWALK

'Who's Holiday' has roots in 'Christmas on the Rocks'

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

When TheaterWorks Hartford first created its lampoon of beloved holiday TV shows "Christmas on the Rocks" — now in its ninth year — one of the most commented-upon scenes was "Going Green." The one-act updated Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with a manic rhyming monologue by a grown-up Cindy Lou Who.

After the show had run a few years, the creator of that scene, Matthew Lombardo, decided to expand "Going Green" into an equally vulgar, outrageous and hilarious full-length one-person show. That version, "Who's Holiday," has finally come to Connecticut, at Music Theatre of Connecticut in Norwalk through Dec. 19.

"We are the first," says Kevin Connors, the artistic director of Music Theatre of Connecticut and also the director of this production.

Intended for an adult audience only, "Who's Holiday" chronicles Cindy Lou's harrowing coming-of-age and she gets more closely connected with the Grinch, becomes a heavy drinker and a drug user, goes to prison and more. Dressed as colorfully as ever, she delivers her mirthful down-and-out monologue from her home in a trailer park.

Connors says he never saw the one-act version at TheaterWorks but did see the expanded "Who's Holiday" in its original New York production. "It's visually active.

A lot of things are happening. It's all in rhyme, Erin is dressed like Cindy Lou Who — everything is completely over the top. It's really fun, but it also has an arc, a story to it. A lot of one-person shows are more character-driven, not plot-focused, but this one has a plot."

The star of the Music Theatre of Connecticut rendition, and in fact the only person in it, is Erin Maguire, who performed in "Who's Holiday" off-Broadway and is also a well-known New York stand-up comic. "I worked with Erin 25 years ago," Connors says. "She does stand-up. That is really a godsend in a show like this."

"Good holiday shows are hard to find," he says. "This is new and different. It's not only hilarious but has heart too."

Lombardo's best known for his plays "High," which ran at TheaterWorks in 2011, and the Katharine Hepburn biodrama "Tea at Five," was at Hartford Stage in 2002.

"Who's Holiday" got attention in New York not just for its expansive Whovian dialect but for having its premiere production delayed by a cease-and-desist order from Dr. Seuss Enterprises, which claimed that the show violated its copyright on the character. The playwright and producers argued that "Who's Holiday" was an obvious parody, and a federal court (and a subsequent appeals court) agreed.

Music Theatre of Connecticut is in its 35th season. In 2014, the theater moved from Westport to Norwalk and opened a new thrust-stage 110-seat space. "We're so



"Who's Holiday," having its Connecticut premiere at Music Theatre of Connecticut in Norwalk through Dec. 19, grew from a scene in TheaterWorks Hartford's "Christmas on the Rocks." ALEX MONGILLO

close to the city," Connors says, "most of our casts come from Broadway." The theater does a five-show season, of which Connors typically directs three. "This year, it's four," he says. "Last year I directed everything, since we were one of the only theaters that was allowed to open" by the Equity union during COVID. One of those shows was "It's a Wonderful Live: A Live Radio Play" with, Connors explains, "actors in separate boxes, like radio booths, so they didn't interact physically." Of the current COVID situation, Connors says "We have a really well-

crafted and well-designed safety plan here. We've never been contact-traced. We're very safe."

"Who's Holiday" by Matthew Lombardo runs through Dec. 19 at Music Theatre of Connecticut, 509 Westport Ave., Norwalk. Performances are Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. musictheatreofct.com.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carrott@courant.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

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Auction Date- Dec 28, 2021 1:00 PM

294 Victoria Jones House goods
655 Raymond James Jeffers Jr House goods
709 Patrick Wegner House goods
705 Joel Izquierdo House goods
491 Rishard Chever House goods
526 Stephanie Scanlon House goods
514 Michael Binion House goods

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property

12/14/21, 12/21/21 7099906

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) is seeking sealed proposals from qualified individuals or firms to perform a Human Resources Study. Copies of the RFP are available by emailing jcomerford@estuarytransit.org or by calling (860) 510-0429, ext. 101

Proposals must be delivered by mail or hand delivery to Joseph Comerford, Estuary Transit District, 91 N Main St, Middletown, CT 06457. Proposals, to be considered and evaluated, must be received before 3:00 PM on January 24, 2022. Proposals received after the above scheduled opening time and date will not be considered. Faxed or e-mailed proposals are not acceptable.

ETD reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any and all informalities or irregularities, to negotiate with any qualified bidders, and to accept or reject all or any part of any proposal as they may deem to be in the best interest of ETD.

12/10/2021 7103358

Notice of Public Sale

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart at 55 Research Parkway, Old Saybrook, CT 06475 to satisfy a lien on December 28th, 2021 at approx. 12:00 p.m. at www.storage treasures.com:

William Dimas - Unit 341
Thomas Bush - Unit 807
David Baranowski - Unit 347
Chadwick Natzdorff - Unit 516
Antonio Laboy - Unit 2260
Pamela Christensen - Unit 5051
Christina Fantoni - Unit 5054
12/14, 16/21 7100741

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS
MIDDLETOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 02, 2021**

1. Granted a variance of Section 21.02 to permit the installation of a handicap ramp and walkway within the required front and side yards on property located at 13 Wall Street. Applicant/agent William Owens V2021-9

2. Denied a variance of Section 21.02 to permit the installation of a shed within 5 ft. of the side property line on property located at 181 West Street. Applicant/agent Troy Hightower V2021-10

Steven Kovach, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
12/14/2021 7103419

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
of the City of Middletown
(860) 347-6661**

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the South Fire District, City of Middletown (Article III, Section 3), notice is hereby given that those individuals residing within the geographical confines of the South Fire District who wish to be considered candidates for the elected position of Commissioner must submit their names in writing by registered, certified or hand-delivered letter, postmarked or delivered on or before 4:00 p.m. on January 10, 2022 and addressed to:

Chief James Trzaski
South Fire District
445 Randolph Road
Middletown, CT 06457

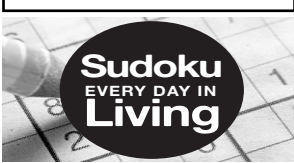
Except as otherwise provided in said By-Laws, failure to so notify the South Fire District shall preclude an individual's name from being considered for election to the position of Commissioner at the election to be held on February 7, 2022.

Deborah Kleckowski, Chairwoman
Board of Fire Commissioners
South Fire District of the City of Middletown
12/14/21 and 12/16/21 7102209



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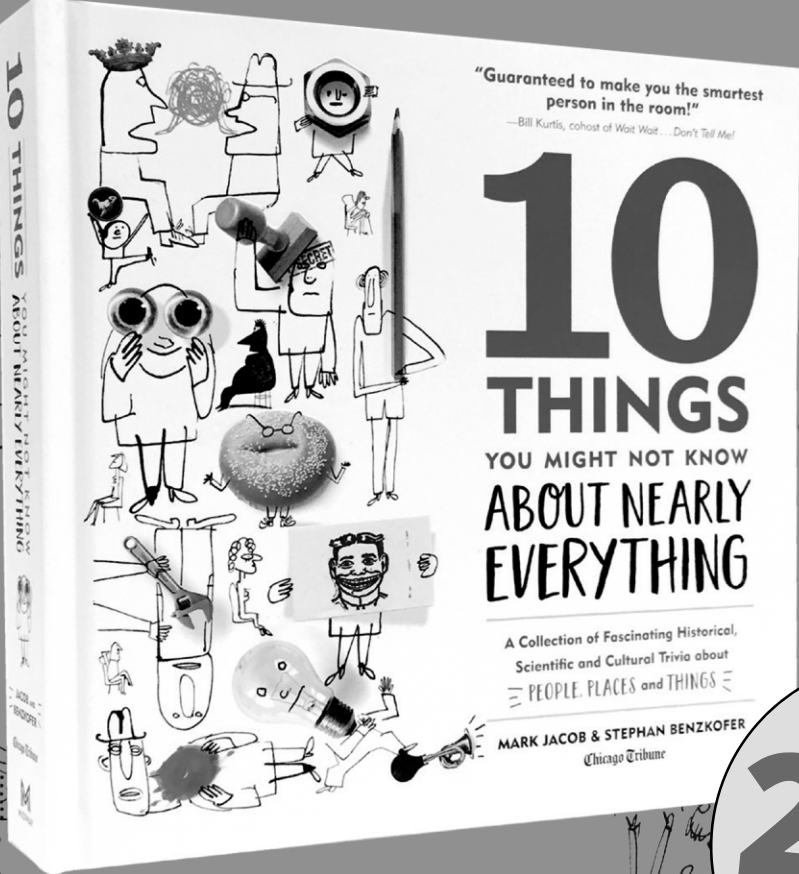
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FACT #341

The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.

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FACT #84

A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #147

When someone uses chitchat, noises, or mannerisms to distract or mislead an opponent during poker or another game, it's called "coffeehousing."

FACT #178

Genophobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238

Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

FACT #279

Before Sir Thomas More was beheaded in 1535, he moved his lengthy beard aside, saying it "had never committed any treason."

FACT #302

Tweety Bird, the animated Looney Tunes character, was originally pink. But censors complained that Tweety looked naked, so animators gave the bird yellow feathers.

FACT #408

Joe Charbonneau, a Belvedere, Ill., native, who played outfield for the Cleveland Indians in the early '80s, used to open beer bottles with his eye socket and drink beer through a straw in his nose.

FACT #459

When actor Clint Eastwood ran for mayor of Carmel, California, in 1986, a major issue was ice cream. Town leaders had banned the sale of ice cream cones, incensing Eastwood and his supporters. They won and overturned the ordinance.



10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.



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79TH GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

Embattled group announces nods to a skeptical Hollywood

By Jake Coyle | Associated Press

After widespread criticism forced the organization that puts on the Golden Globes to lose its televised award show and overhaul its membership, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association nevertheless went ahead announcing nominees for film and television awards despite a skeptical entertainment industry.

Just as it's done for many years, the HFPA recently gathered reporters at the Beverly Hilton to announce its picks for the 79th Golden Globes. But this time, there was no nationally televised morning-show live spot or any immediate celebrity celebrations. Hollywood mostly shrugged.

The HFPA, which usually has a handful of movie stars make their announcement, turned instead to Snoop Dogg, who read the nominees behind sunglasses and a red hat during a live stream on the Globes' YouTube page. The majority of studios, public relations firms and A-list talent haven't engaged much this year with the group. Critics have said it's too soon for the HFPA to return to business as usual. Some would rather see the Globes be gone for good.

But the press association tried to maintain its perch in awards season, spreading nominations around to the likes of Will Smith ("King Richard"), Kristen Stewart ("Spencer"), "West Side Story" breakthrough Rachel Zegler, Leonardo DiCaprio ("Don't Look Up"), Denzel Washington ("The Tragedy of Macbeth"), Ben Affleck ("The Tender Bar") and Lady Gaga ("House of Gucci").

The nominees for best picture in the

drama category went to Jane Campion's gothic Western "The Power of the Dog," Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi epic "Dune," the family drama "CODA," Reinaldo Marcus Green's tennis biopic "King Richard" and Kenneth Branagh's autobiographical "Belfast."

The comedy or musical picks for best picture were Adam McKay's apocalyptic comedy "Don't Look Up," Paul Thomas Anderson's '70s ode to San Fernando Valley "Licorice Pizza," Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Tick, Tick ... Boom!" and Joe Wright's "Cyrano."

"Belfast" and "The Power of the Dog" tied for the most nominations with seven apiece. Netflix dominated the film nominees with 17 nods in total. HBO's "Succession" led the TV side with five nominations, including nods for best drama and best actor in a drama series for Jeremy Strong.

The press association claims that in the nine months since its 2021 show, it has remade itself. "HFPA 2.0," recently elected president Helen Hoehne has said. The group has added a chief diversity officer; overhauled its board; inducted 21 new members, including six Black journalists; brought in the NAACP on a five-year partnership; and



Snoop Dogg announces nominations for the 79th Golden Globe Awards on Monday in California. CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

updated its code of conduct.

"This has been a year of change and reflection for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association," Hoehne said Monday.

All of that came after a Los Angeles Times' expose detailed some of the HFPA's unethical behavior and revealed that its 87 voting members didn't include one Black journalist. Studios said they would boycott the

Globes, and more than 100 PR firms said their clients wouldn't participate until the HFPA swiftly implemented "profound and lasting change."

NBC, the Globes' longtime telecaster, has said it won't air the 2022 Globes because "change of this magnitude takes time and work." The Globes have still set a date of Jan. 9 but haven't shared any details about what kind of ceremony that would be.

"This has been a year of change and reflection for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association."

— Helen Hoehne, Hollywood Foreign Press Association president

CELEBRITIES

John Legend joining book business

From news services

Award-winning singer-songwriter John Legend's newest project brings him into the book business. Legend, Tony Award-winning producer Mike Jackson and Emmy Award-winner Ty Stiklorius are partnering with the publisher Zando for a new imprint, Get Lifted Books, an extension of the production company Get Lifted Film.

Zando, an independent company founded last year by former Crown publisher Molly Stern, also has formed imprints with actor-producer Lena Waithe and "Gone Girl" novelist Gillian Flynn.

"Get Lifted Film Co. was born out of the necessity to build platforms for diverse voices that deserve to be heard," Legend, Jackson and Stiklorius said in a statement Monday. "And we felt an immediate kinship with the Zando team, who are doing just that. Together, we have the unique opportunity to support and elevate brilliant authors, who have the ability to transform the conversation. We're so excited to get the chance to play a role in amplifying their voices and connecting readers to their work."

Get Lifted Books' first acquisition is the novel "Rosewater" by Liv Little, founder of the magazine gal-dem. "Rosewater" is slated for a spring 2023 release.

'Belfast,' 'West Side Story' lead Critics Choice nods: Kenneth Branagh's "Belfast" and Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" lead the 27th annual Critics Choice Awards, with 11 nominations each. "Dune" and "The Power of the Dog" picked up 10 nominations each. "Licorice Pizza" and "Nightmare Alley" collected eight nominations apiece, while "King Richard" and "Don't



John Legend is partnering on a new imprint, Get Lifted Books, with its first release due in 2023. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

Look Up," earned six nominations.

The Critics Choice Awards will air Jan. 9 on the CW and TBS.

'Dr. Oz' show ending: U.S. Senate candidate Mehmet Oz will end his "Dr. Oz" syndicated talk show next month, and producers will replace it with a cooking show featuring his daughter. The "Dr. Oz" show, in its 13th season, will air its last episode on Jan. 14, Sony Pictures Television said Monday.

The heart surgeon and talk show host is running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican in Pennsylvania. Stations in Philadelphia, New York City and Cleveland that are seen in Pennsylvania had already taken "Dr. Oz" off the air, for fear that the Federal Communications Commission's "equal time" rules would allow rival candidates to seek similar air time.

In many parts of the country, "Dr. Oz" will be replaced by "The Good Dish," a combination talk-cooking show where hosts Daphne Oz, Gail Simmons and Jamika Pessoa will serve up a dish of the day. Producers boasted it would be "the most fun you can have in the kitchen without having to do the dishes." The show is an outgrowth of a segment on "Dr. Oz," much like Oz's TV career got an early boost from Oprah Winfrey.

"The Good Dish" begins Jan. 17, Sony said.

Dec. 14 birthdays: Singer Abbe Lane is 89. Actor Hal Williams is 83. Singer Joyce Vincent-Wilson is 75. Bassist Cliff Williams is 72. Actor T.K. Carter is 65. Actor Nancy Valen is 56. Actor Archie Kao is 52. Actor Michaela Watkins is 50. Actor KaDee Strickland is 46. Actor Vanessa Hudgens is 33. Singer Tori Kelly is 29.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Minimalist wants to maximize birthday gift

Dear Amy: I have always been against consumerism. I am a minimalist in almost all aspects of my life.

I do not try to impose my beliefs on anyone, however, whenever I am invited to birthday parties, my solution is to give a gift card, which the recipient can spend on whatever they might need or want.

That might seem tactless or impersonal, but to me this works better when it comes to giving gifts to adults.

My friend has invited me to one of her kids' birthday parties.

This child is turning 5, and although I know I can't come empty-handed, I also don't want to give any gifts. I know that my friend's child, whom I adore and have babysat for many times, needs nothing.

These parents are wealthy, she has a loving extended family, and friends that give her more than she can even play with.

My conundrum is: I don't want to give something that I am sure is going to end up in the bottom of some drawer, but I understand that convention calls for some kind of present.

Should I buy something for this child?
— *I'm Not Cheap*

Dear Not Cheap: There is no need to buy anything in order to give a child a wonderful gift.

This child knows you well. She might enjoy a "coupon" for an experience. You can make a special card for her, telling her that she can choose her own activity and "spend" this card on: A special "play date" with you; a

"cooking lesson," where you will assist her as she makes a special dish in the kitchen; two hours with you, ice skating or kicking a soccer ball ... (the options are fairly endless).

Make sure she understands that she should keep the card and think about the choices she can make. She can talk it over with you, make her selection and enjoy her birthday gift along with you.

And a note about gift cards: If you are truly concerned about consumerism, you should rethink this practice, because in using gift cards, you are encouraging spending, buying and consuming.

You might be better off giving cash, or treat the recipient to drinks, a bite or a movie ticket.

Dear Amy: I lost my father last month. He was 94 years old. I miss him.

I have no other relatives in my area. I have cousins living in another state, but I don't travel.

I was able to get through Thanksgiving, but Christmas will be worse without my father.

I did buy some gifts for myself to ease the day a little, but I will be alone this Christmas.

Please give me some advice of what a person can do when he is alone on this particular day.
— *Sad and Alone*

Dear Sad: Many churches are recognizing the extreme sadness and loneliness so many people experience around the holidays, and so they organize a special service, usually held on or around the "longest night" of the year, which is Dec. 21.

These services are called "Blue Christmas" services, and they are designed for people who mourn.

I attend one of these services every year, and while it can be an extremely tender and sad event, it can also be a time to recognize in a deep way that you mourn — because you experienced the privilege of being loved.

The feeling of connection and community with others who are also feeling sad and lonely will help all of you to feel less alone.

If you can't find a local service to attend, an internet search will turn up services available via Zoom or livestream.

You should have a plan in place for Christmas Day. Ritualize your experience. Toast your father's memory, open your gifts and reach out to your closest friend or family member. And then — if possible — in the late afternoon, go to the movies.

Dear Amy: "Deflated Post Wedding" described his extreme disappointment that his daughter did not visit all guests at their tables during the reception. Hello, isn't this what the receiving line is for?
— *Frequent Wedding Guest*

Dear Guest: Yes, this is what the receiving line is for. Unfortunately, many couples seem to be fleeing right after their ceremony in order to spend time having photos taken of themselves.

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Williams energized, nostalgic crafting album

Temptations original member steers 60th anniversary project

By Brian McCollum
Detroit Free Press

When it came time to pick a closing track for the Temptations' 60th anniversary album, Otis Williams reached back. Waaay back. Williams, the iconic Motown group's lone surviving original member, decided to dust off and remake the 1960 song "Come On" — the first release by the baritone singer and his proto-Tempts group the Distant. And so the wide-ranging album "Temptations 60," due Jan. 28, will close with a poignant shot of throwback doo-wop soul as Williams and his latest Temptations lineup mark six decades of music from one of the preeminent vocal groups in the history of popular music. For Williams, the diamond-anniversary project has been invigorating and sentimental — a chance to look back on a musical life of shared triumphs and personal tragedies, of groundbreaking artistry and career perseverance, and a story forged all those years ago in Detroit.

It's a journey, he says, that often has seemed "guided from above." "All we ever wanted to do was sing — get a successful group, have fun, sing to the ladies, all that," Williams said. "But we never had any inkling we'd still be doing it 60 years later, even with all the guys that have been in the group and helped us make those transitions. The world has still accepted and loved this group in spite of ourselves. So I'm sitting back and reflecting on that. This has been an amazing ride, and I'm enjoying it to the max." The new album — which was formally announced recently by Universal Music after months of teasers — is the cornerstone of a



Otis Williams, the lone surviving member of the Temptations, has served as the executive producer on "Temptations 60," an album celebrating the group's 60th anniversary. The album is set for a Jan. 28 release. **RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS 2020**

yearlong 60th anniversary campaign unveiled by the Temptations in the spring. The hoopla includes a three-part video series rolling out in December, and the Tempts — Williams, Ron Tyson, Terry Weeks, Willie Greene Jr. and Mario Corbino — have resumed touring after a year-plus pandemic layoff, the longest performance break in the group's history. "Ain't Too Proud," the hit musical based on Williams' memoir, resumed its Broadway run this fall, and the show's touring company is also back on the road. "I can't believe it's been 60 years since that day in 1961 when five tall, dark and handsome men strolled into Hitsville to audition,"

Motown founder Berry Gordy writes in an essay for the new album, hailing Williams as keeper of the Temptations flame. "They could have all been lead singers, which was sometimes a blessing and sometimes maybe a curse." While an anniversary album might make a fitting swan song for Williams, 80, he resists declaring this to be his final record. He says his creative juices are still flowing, and if the album turns out to be a commercial smash, he doesn't want to rule out a follow-up. "I can't say what comes next, yet," Williams said. "I want to let the sun set on this anniversary album first and soak up the rays from our 60 years."

The 12-track "Temptations 60" was designed as a musical retrospective, covering assorted bases from the group's artistic journey: There are love songs, socially conscious numbers, some funky stuff, some jazzy stuff. Old pal Smokey Robinson — whose early songwriting work for the Temptations included classics such as "My Girl," "The Way You Do the Things You Do" and "Get Ready" — steps in with the '60s-flavored "Is It Gonna Be Yes or No," which also features him on guest vocals. "A lot of planning and energy went into making sure this was a staple kind of album," Williams said. There's plenty of nostal-

gia. "When We Were Kings," the first track recorded for the project, kicks off with a drum lick that sounds straight off a Funk Brothers Motown session circa 1965. The song is a tribute to the Tempts' Classic Five era — the lineup of Williams, David Ruffin, Eddie Kendricks, Paul Williams and Melvin Franklin that stormed radio airwaves, television screens and concert stages in the 1960s. "We were trying to recapture the Classic Five, trying to come close to what we were doing 60 years ago," Williams said. "Once we got that in motion, all the pieces (for the album) started coming together." As the album's executive

producer, Williams says he was pulled "six ways to Sunday" as the record came together this spring: "Ask Otis! Tell Otis! When will Otis be here?" "It was such a mental and emotional thing because this is our 60th anniversary album," he said. "There was a lot of concentrated effort that went into doing it, and it left me drained. When I was finished, I got back to my house and almost dropped to my knees." "Come On" — the old 1960 song redone by the Temptations for the new album — is especially meaningful for Williams. He opens the track with a spoken-word segment recounting the Temptations' beginnings, including a 1960 record-hop in Detroit where he met Gordy for the first time. "Man, I like that record you guys have out," he recalls the young Motown boss saying. "Come see me. I'm starting my label." Sixty years later, Williams is proud of his work's impact, moved that his group's music has resonated through time. He cites the periodic stories he hears from fans telling him of dying loved ones who asked that a Temptations album be placed with them in their resting places. "When you hear that, it gives you another kind of perspective," Williams said. "Like, wow. I never would have imagined something like that all because we wanted to sing." However any future albums may or may not pan out, the Temptations founder has no intention of slowing down. "They're still turning out to see us. I've been told the music Motown made will last forever. And sure enough, when we go out there and start singing those songs the world has come to know and love, they're standing up and singing right along with us," he said. "So this is a heck of a journey, still."

TV Q&A

Was a recent 'New Amsterdam' episode the show's series finale?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Q: I am wondering if the season finale of "New Amsterdam" is the series finale. The main character has left the hospital and is moving to London. A: What you saw was not the season finale but what is sometimes called a midseason finale or a winter finale, a dramatic episode leading into a break during the full TV season. "New Amsterdam" is back on the NBC schedule Jan. 4. There have been steady rumors that star Ryan Eggold is planning to leave the show, but he will be around when the series resumes. Showrunner David Schulner told this to Cinemablend.com: Max Goodwin (Eggold) and Helen Sharpe (Freema Agyeman) "have their own challenges in London. Just because they're following the joy doesn't mean it's going to be easy. They've got their own challenges ... but it's certainly joyous for them. ... And unfortunately, we juxtapose that joy in London with what's happening at New Amsterdam, which could not be worse."

Q: When will the sixth season of "Outlander" air? A: The new season of the series based on Diana Gabaldon's books is expected to start March 6 on Starz. It draws on Gabaldon's book "A Breath of Snow and Ashes." According to several reports, the sixth season will be only eight episodes because of pandemic-related production delays. But a seventh season has already been ordered.

Q: Is Benny coming back on "Bull"? A: No. Freddy



Freema Agyeman and Ryan Eggold in "New Amsterdam." The series returns to NBC on Jan. 4. **VIRGINIA SHERWOOD/NBC**

Rodriguez, who played Benny Colon, was ousted from the series last spring along with producer Glenn Gordon Caron following a workplace investigation, as EW.com reported. The details of the investigation were not released. But "Bull" has been under scrutiny for several years following actor Eliza Dushku's accusations of sexual harassment against star Michael Weatherly. "Bull" stayed on the air, and Weatherly with it, after a network executive said Weatherly was remorseful about his conduct and had apologized.

Q: Someone wrote asking about "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." It can be found on the Decades channel. A: A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned that Moore's classic comedy was on Prime Video, Hulu and DVD — but several readers pointed out that I had missed its inclusion on nostalgia-based channel Decades. Decades is a digital channel often available as a secondary service from a broadcast station; besides Decades, these digital subchannels

include MeTV, Grit and Laff. Your cable or satellite provider may also have them. To locate where Decades is in your area, go to decades.com/wheretowatch.

Q: On the updated homecoming episode of "The Waltons," son Ben was missing. Was there any reason for this? A: According to Showbiz Cheat Sheet, "The Waltons' Homecoming" executive producer Ben Haskell said, "We made the decision to reduce it to six (children) because we had so many characters in this movie ... to service that having another child was going to complicate that in the short amount of time we had to tell the story that we wanted to tell." If The CW orders more Waltons stories, Ben will be part of them, Haskell said. The "Homecoming" movie is streaming on cwtv.com and the CW app.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You'd be wise to start the day off on a professional foot. You might want to arrive at work early, ready for any important moment to come your way and boost you up the career ladder. Bosses and other VIPs could be watching. You've got this in the bag!

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Life has countless possibilities, but it can be difficult to see them all. Today, examine how different people approach matters, and see if you can't learn something from them. Their methods may help you shake up your routine in new and amazing ways.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Growth takes time and patience. Today, sitting back and reflecting might have better results. If you do want to do something or be active, make an effort to approach life differently. When you change your view on something, what are the results? Don't worry about coming up with solutions.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You're being called to enjoy yourself as much as possible. While it can be easy to get shunted off to the side and hide within yourself when times are difficult, that's not at all what you should do right now. Instead, meet up with some friends for a nice meal.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 14, 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, home at age 67.

In 1819, Alabama joined the

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): If you try a little bit harder to improve the areas where you might be lacking, you could become something truly impressive. Search out new ways to improve yourself today. Admitting weakness doesn't mean that you are weak. Ask yourself what you need to do to grow closer to the sun.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Something may be pulling at your spirit today. Do you believe in past lives? Some strange and unusual feelings might present themselves to you today, ones that aren't easily explained. Let yourself entertain the idea of something impossible — it might turn out to be possible after all.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There's no point in pounding on a wall and hoping it will turn into a door. Today you'd be wiser to change up your approach. Take a backseat instead of trying to be the driver — you may find that you come across a door where you never expected to find one! Let life take you there and don't direct.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your faith in others. Go ahead and share your deepest thoughts with someone you hold close — it could do wonders to bring you two closer together. No one is an island, especially in this day and age. You're still connected to the rest of humanity.

Union as the 22nd state.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson vetoed an immigration measure aimed at preventing "undesirables" and anyone

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you've been feeling like you're not at your best, then try and use positive thinking to trick your mind into performing at a higher capacity. Instead of focusing on your flaws, put all your energy into what you do best and let everyone else see your efforts for what they are!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're normally one of the most disciplined signs of the zodiac, Capricorn, and while that's all well and good, currently you've got clearance to leave work behind! You're going to be in an especially creative mental place. Don't do things the same way you always do them.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): We lost a few things in the process of technological advancement. Try to spend a few hours in nature today if you can, and see what you can learn from the world. Getting back in touch with your roots and the facts of life that connect you to the earth can be a nurturing experience.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Sometimes getting attached without even realizing it is all too easy, and it might turn out that you don't have as much in common as you once thought. Take a fresh look at the people and groups you spend time with. Look for people who better appreciate you.

born in the "Asiatic Barred Zone" from entering the U.S. (Congress overrode Wilson's veto in February 1917)

In 1939, the Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations for invading Finland.

In 2020, the Electoral College decisively confirmed Joe Biden as the nation's next president.

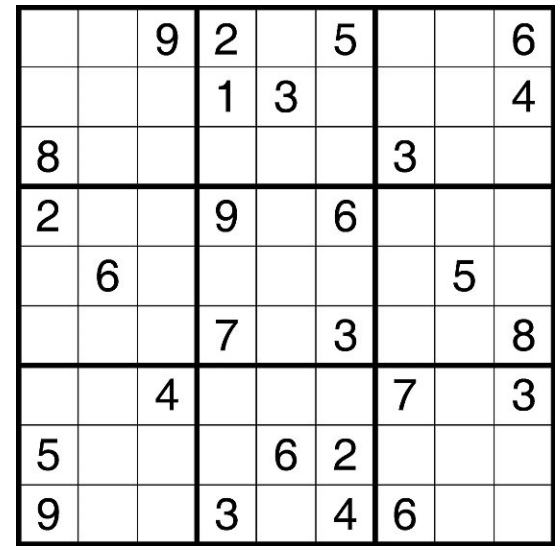
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



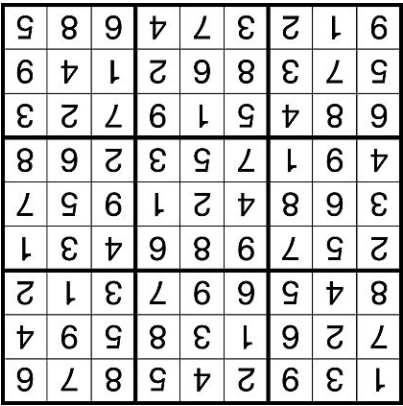
Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU



Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



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BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

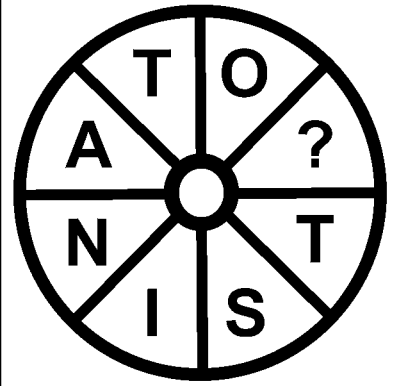
YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE COUNTRIES in the grid of letters.

IRAN CHINA CHILE ENGLAND IRELAND

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: jewelry

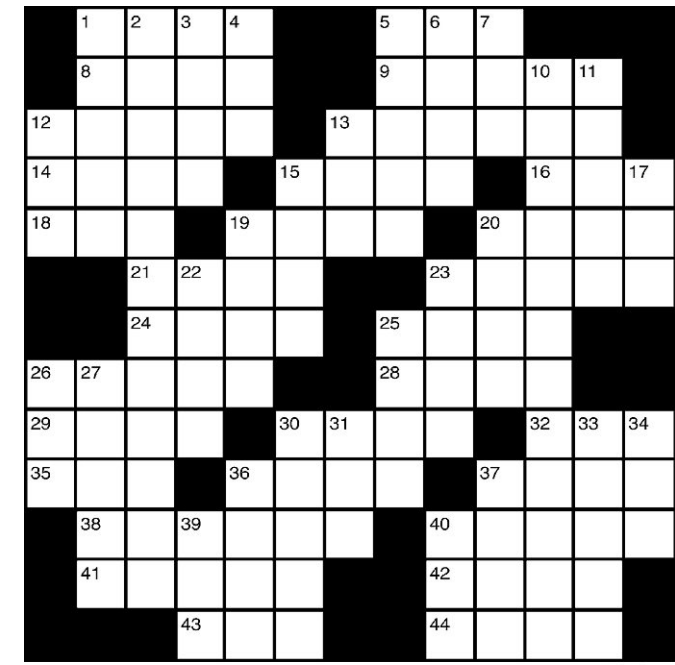
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| AMBER | CHARM | JADE | RING |
| AMETHYST | CHOKER | JASPER | RUBY |
| AMULET | CLIP | LOCKET | SAPPHIRE |
| BAND | CORONET | MOUNT | SEQUIN |
| BEAD | COSTUME | NECKLACE | SIGNET |
| BIJOU | CROWN | ONYX | SILVER |
| BRACELET | CRYSTAL | OPAL | SOLITAIRE |
| BRILLIANT | DIAMOND | PASTE | STUD |
| BROOCH | EMERALD | PEARL | TIARA |
| CAMEO | GARNET | PENDANT | TOPAZ |
| CARAT | GEMS | PLATINUM | TREASURE |
| CHAIN | GOLD | PRECIOUS | TRINKET |

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/16/15

ACROSS

- 1 "___ '70s Show"
5 Donaldson or Waterston
8 Leaf-gathering implement
9 "Lady and the ___"
12 Shriver or Bello
13 Last name of Mayberry's sheriff
14 Piece of Greek Orthodox artwork
15 Actress Winningham
16 Ad ___; speak without any preparation
18 ___ Aviv, Israel
19 Lowe and Reiner
20 Actor on "M*A*S*H"
21 Dull in color
23 Fred of "Hunter"
24 ___ Matthews; Ben Savage's role on "Boy Meets World"
25 "___ of the Century"; game show of old
26 Shemar or Mary Tyler
28 ___ up; give support to
29 "About ___"
30 One of the boys on "Home Improvement"
32 ___ Solo; "Star Wars" character



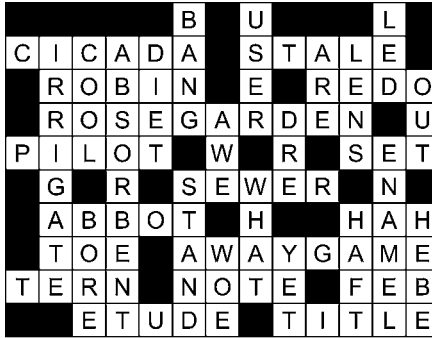
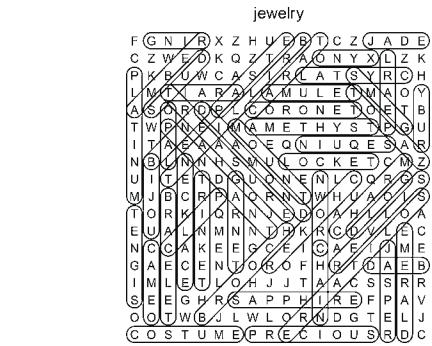
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8/16/15

- 35 Tam or beret
36 "Love Is a ___ Splendored Thing"
37 Soft white cheese
38 Ms. Kanakaredes
40 "Beauty and the ___"
41 Ascended
42 "Resident ___"; Milla Jovovich movie
43 Pack animal
44 ___ disease; malady spread by ticks

DOWN

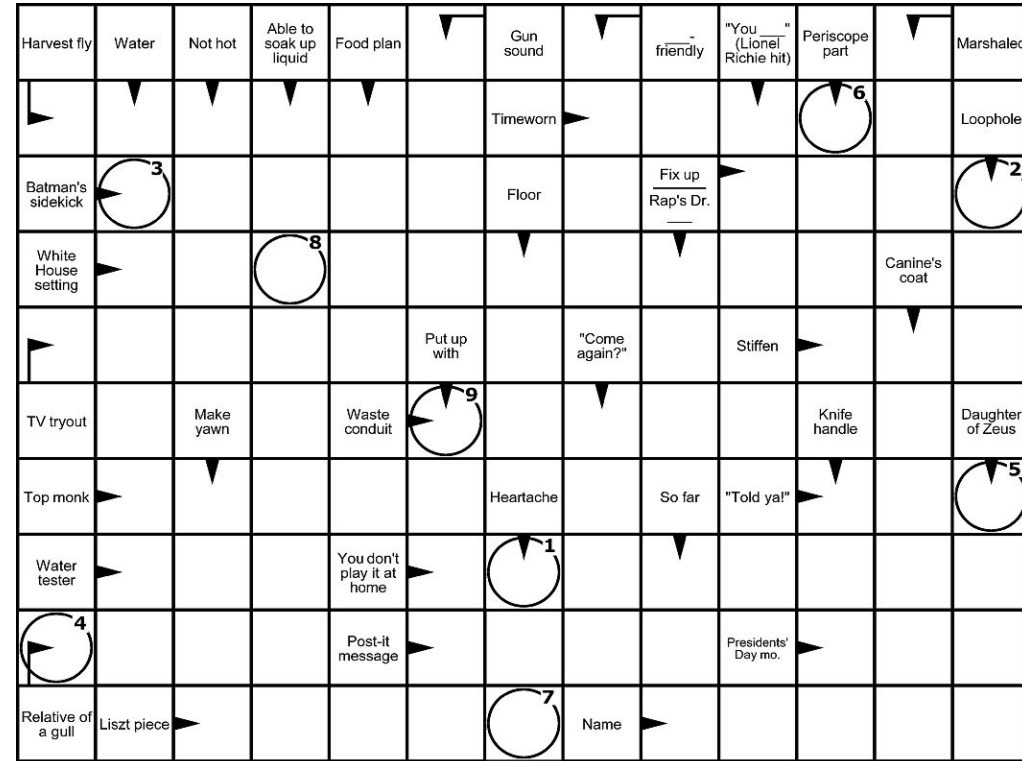
- 1 "Without a ___"
2 Role on "The Blacklist"
3 Related; similar
4 Actress Leoni
5 "Dancing with the ___"
6 Actor Gross
7 Prefix for nutrition or practice
10 Actress on "Last Man Standing"
11 "___ & Prejudice"; film for Keira Knightley
12 Cambridge institute, familiarly
13 Actor Hunter
15 "___ Dick"
17 Tavern
19 "The ___ Breed"; James Stewart movie
20 Woody Guthrie's son
22 Actor Calhoun
23 "The ___ Knight"; Christian Bale movie
25 Agile; lively
26 "The Bernie ___ Show"
27 Biden's boss
30 Tufts of hair on horses' necks
31 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
33 Supermarket walkway
34 Ping-Pong table divider
36 "Driving ___ Daisy"
37 Flock of quail
39 Hawaii's Mauna ___
40 "The Fresh Prince of ___-Air"



WORTHLESS

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

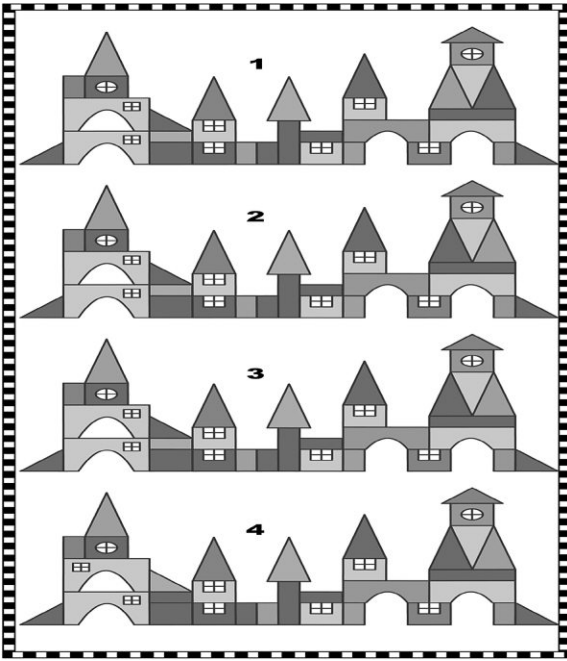
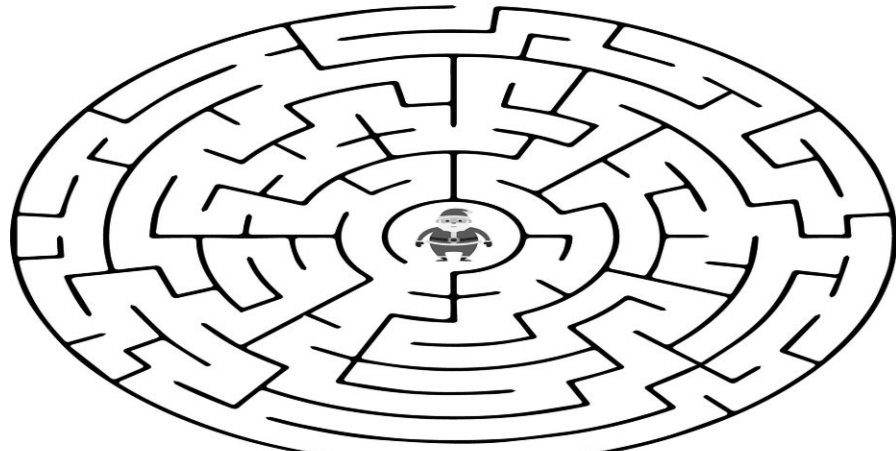


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11/2/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



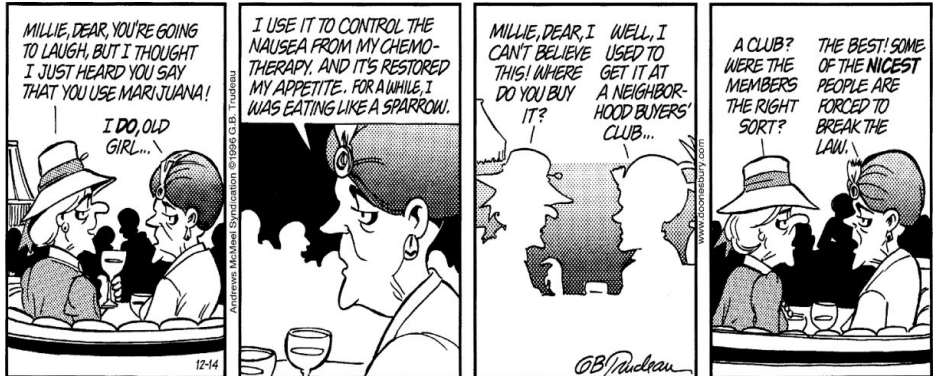
☆☆☆☆☆

Find two identical images.

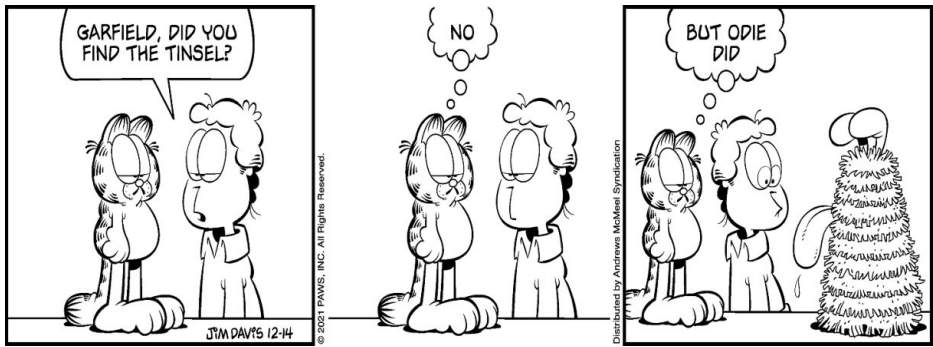
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



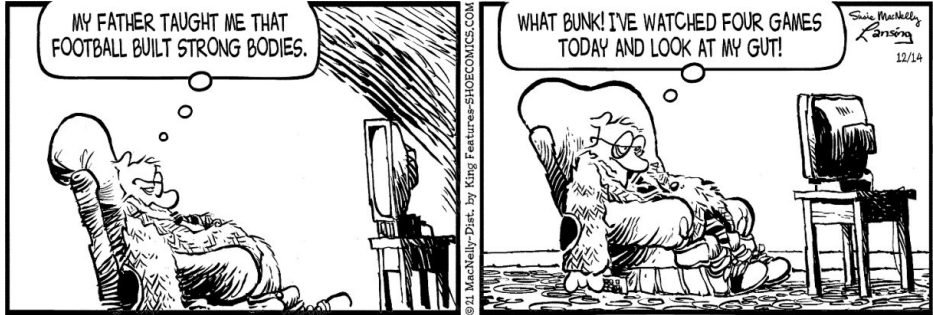
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



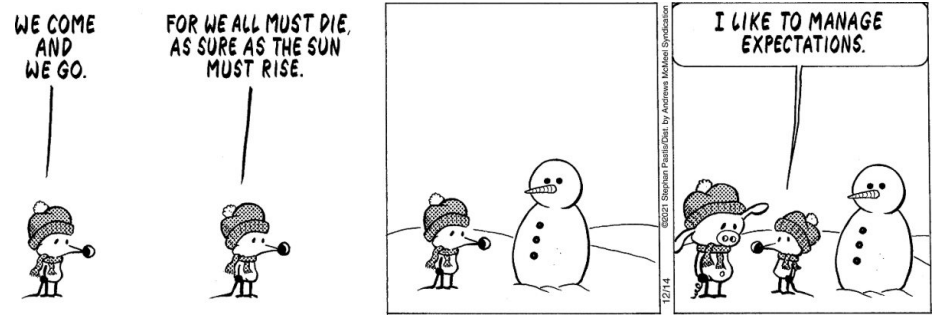
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



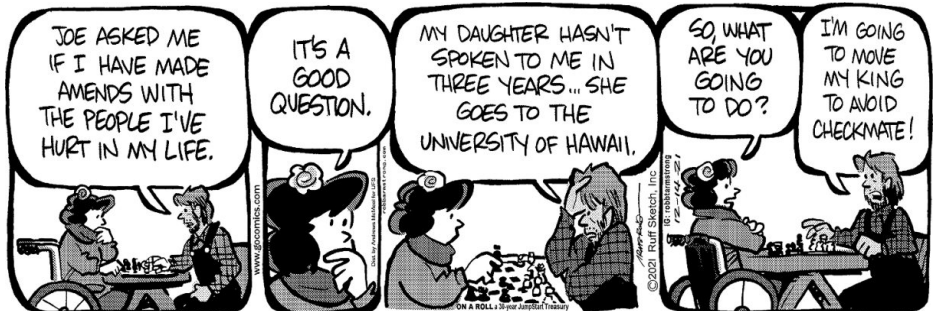
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



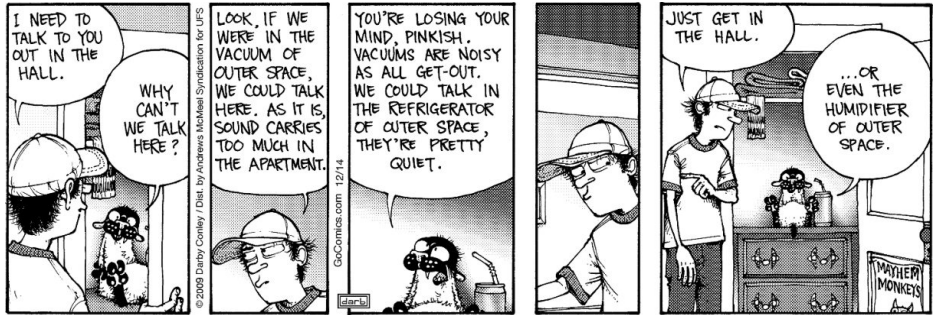
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



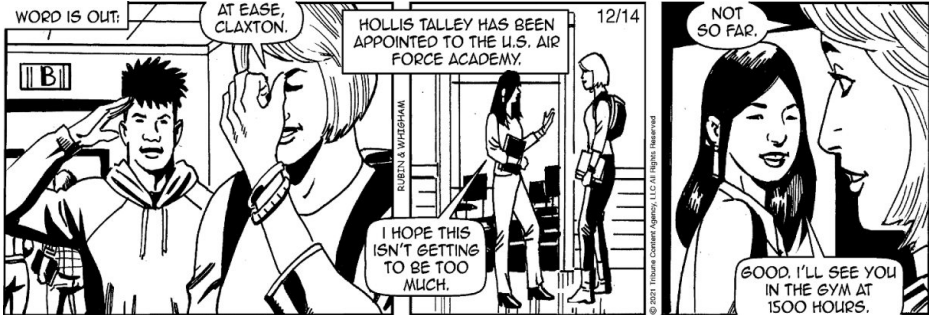
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



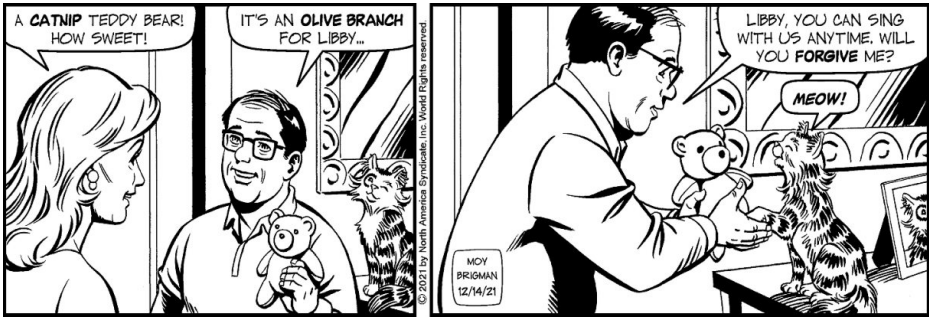
Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



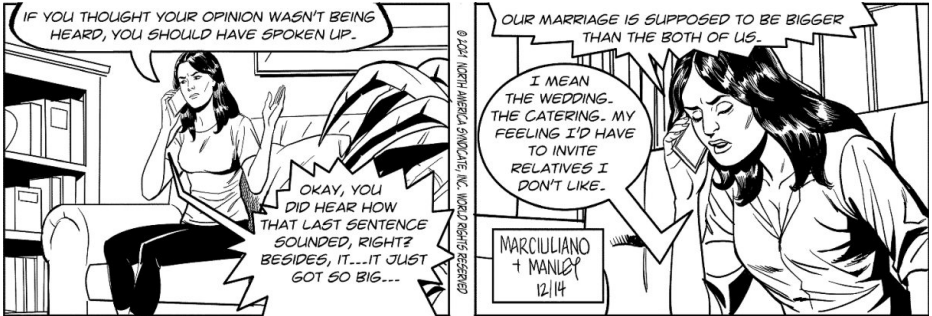
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



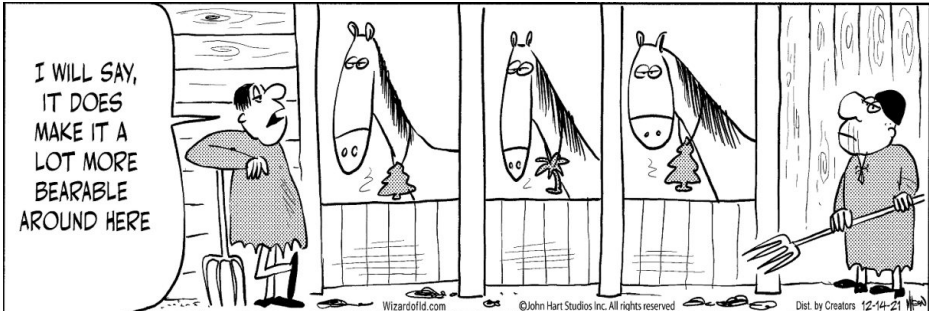
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



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SPORTS

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UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sophomore McLean enters transfer portal

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

The UConn women's basketball team just got a little more short-handed.

Sophomore Mir McLean has entered into the NCAA transfer portal, she confirmed to the Courant on Monday. The news was first reported by Russell Steinberg of The Next.

She is the second player to transfer midseason from UConn in four weeks. Freshman Saylor Poffenbarger announced she was transferring to Arkansas last month.

"Mir is extremely smart and athletic and she has a lot of potential," coach Geno Auriemma said in a statement when the school confirmed the move later Monday.

Up next



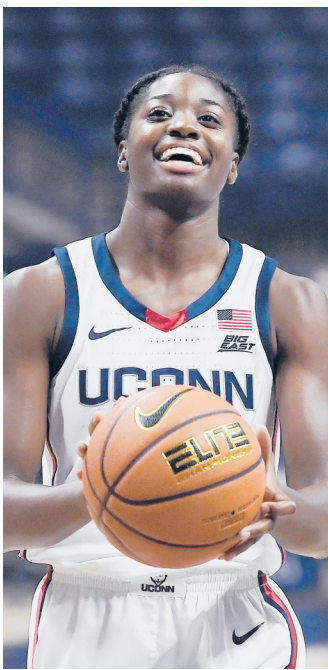
Louisville vs. UConn
(at Mohegan Sun)
3:30 p.m. Sun., ESPN

"We wish Mir and her family the best as she continues her collegiate career."

McLean, a 5-foot-11 forward, played sparingly this season, recording just eight minutes in three appearances while going scoreless and collecting two rebounds. Even when the Huskies were down to eight players against Georgia Tech on Thursday, she saw just two minutes of action.

She played more as a freshman, averaging 2.8 points and 2.1

Turn to McLean, Page 4



UConn sophomore Mir McLean became the second player in the past month to enter the NCAA transfer portal, following freshman Saylor Poffenbarger. JESSICA HILL/AP

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL AP TOP 25

UConn drops to lowest spot in poll since 2007

Auriemma's crew falls to No. 7 after loss to unranked Ga. Tech

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Following the UConn women's basketball team's loss to Georgia Tech, its first loss to an unranked team since 2012, the Huskies fell to No. 7 in this week's Associated Press Top 25 poll.

UConn was last ranked this low on Jan. 22, 2007, when the Huskies were also No. 7. They ultimately finished the 2006-07 season 32-4 and exited the NCAA Tournament in the Elite Eight.

The Huskies dropped the contest to Georgia Tech, now

AP Top 10

Rank, team	Rec.	Votes	Pv.
1. South Carolina	10-0	750	1
2. NC State	10-1	720	2
3. Stanford	6-2	651	4
4. Arizona	9-0	634	6
5. Baylor	9-1	620	5
6. Louisville	8-1	594	7
7. Tennessee	9-0	556	9
7. UConn	6-2	556	3
9. Maryland	9-3	518	8
10. Indiana	8-2	515	10

■ Complete poll, Page 3

ranked No. 18, after losing reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers for at least 6-8 weeks with a tibial plateau fracture in her left knee. The Huskies are

Turn to UConn, Page 4

GIANTS



Giants coach Joe Judge looks on during Sunday's game against the Chargers in Inglewood, Calif. KYUSUNG GONG/AP

COLLEGE BASKETBALL AP TOP 25

Shorthanded Huskies stumble to No. 20 in latest poll

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

The UConn men's basketball team fell five spots to No. 20 in Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll released Monday.

UConn (9-2) went 1-1 last week, narrowly losing to West Virginia 56-53 on Wednesday and beating St. Bonaventure on Saturday, 74-64. Both wins came without senior guard Tyrese Martin (wrist) and sophomore forward Adama Sanogo (abdominal strain). According to coach Dan Hurley, Martin should be back Saturday against Providence and Sanogo has a chance to return also.

Baylor took over the No. 1 spot after Purdue's loss to Rutgers dropped the Boilermakers to No. 3. Duke rounded out the top three, rising to the No. 2 spot.

The Bears (9-0) became the fourth different team at No. 1 in the past four weeks. The Bears earned every vote from a 61-member national media panel to reach the top spot in the poll for the first time since a four-week run ended on Feb. 17, 2020.

"Every coach tells you that the goal is at the end of the year to be No. 1," Baylor coach Scott Drew said, "but I will tell you that it always means something. It means something to your fans. It means something to your coaches, your players and everybody. It's a great sign of respect for other people that have come before you, the work they put in."

Outside of the top three is No. 4 UCLA and No. 5 Gonzaga, which began the season atop the poll and spent the first two weeks there before losses to the Blue Devils and

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Joe Judge has no intention of talking about his future as coach of the New York Giants with a second straight losing season guaranteed.

When he took over less than two years ago, the former New England Patriots special teams coordinator said he was

going to build the Giants the right way.

There would be no quick fixes. There would be bad players in the building. It would be a process that would put the Giants on the path to long-term success.

New York's 6-10 record and good finish last season in Judge's rookie season was a sign of hope and progress.

Right now, long-term success seems light years away.

The Giants (4-9) were terrible on

Sunday in a 37-21 loss to the Chargers. Los Angeles led 37-7 early in the fourth quarter and New York just made it closer in garbage time.

The loss ensured a fifth consecutive losing season overall, and fans are getting fed up. The four-time Super Bowl champions have made the playoffs once (2016) since winning the Lombardi

Turn to Giants, Page 2



Up next
Cowboys at Giants
1 p.m.
Sunday, FOX
■ Inside:
Jets news.
Page 2

UCONN FOOTBALL

Huskies land 3 commitments and a transfer

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

After another weekend of visits, new UConn football coach Jim Mora added three commitments and a transfer.

Wide receiver Nigel Fitzgerald is transferring from Old Dominion, where he caught 14 passes for 228 yards in 2019. He has been slowed by injuries since, catching one pass for nine yards in the 2021 season opener. ODU didn't play

due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Fitzgerald, 6 feet 5 and 225 pounds, played at Dudley High in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he helped win a state championship. He was considered a three-star recruit when he committed to ODU in 2017 and played in three games on special teams before redshirting in 2018. He announced his decision to transfer to UConn on Monday morning.

Ben Murawski, a 6-foot-7, 320-pound lineman from Harleysville, Pennsylvania, announced his commitment on Sunday night, posting a photo shoot on his Twitter page. He played prep school football at St. Thomas More in Oakdale, where he was team captain and brings great positional size at offensive tackle.

Like Murawski, defensive back and receiver Kylish Hicks, 6 feet 1, 180 pounds, announced his

commitment on Sunday night via social media.

"I thought long and hard about this decision," Hicks said. "I decided I wanted to be a Husky. The brand new coaching staff is fun to be around and they are like family to me."

Hicks played at Mergenthaler Vocational Tech High in the Baltimore area. He led his team to a state title on Dec. 5, making 10

Turn to Recruiting, Page 4

AP Top 10

Rank, team	Rec.	Votes	Pv.
1. Baylor	9-0	1525	2
2. Duke	7-1	1429	3
3. Purdue	9-1	1319	1
4. UCLA	9-1	1312	4
5. Gonzaga	8-2	1291	5
6. Alabama	8-1	1202	9
7. Kansas	8-1	1181	8
8. Arizona	9-0	1172	11
9. Villanova	7-3	924	6
10. Southern Cal	10-0	810	16

■ Complete poll, Page 3

Did you know?

Though it may seem like harmless fun, sledding injuries send thousands of kids and teens to hospital emergency rooms each year.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: at Colts, Saturday, 8:15 p.m.
Giants: Cowboys, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: at Dolphins, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: Providence (XL), Saturday, 5 p.m.; at Marquette, Dec. 21, 9 p.m.; at Xavier, Dec. 28, 7 p.m.
UConn WBB: Basketball HoF Women's Showcase: vs. Louisville (Mohegan Sun), Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Marquette (XL), Dec. 29, 7 p.m.; at DePaul, Dec. 31, 2 p.m.
Celtics: Warriors, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Saturday, 7 p.m.; 76ers, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: Warriors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Rockets, Thursday, 8 p.m.; Celtics, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Nets: Raptors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Magic, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Harvard, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Knights, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Islanders, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Canadiens, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Avalanche, Tuesday, 9 p.m.; at Coyotes, Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Knights, Friday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Lehigh Valley, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Springfield, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Springfield, Sunday, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO

NBA
7:30 p.m.: Golden State Warriors at New York Knicks. (Live), TNT.
7:30 p.m.: Toronto Raptors at Brooklyn Nets. (Live), YES.
10 p.m.: Suns at Blazers. TNT
NHL
7 p.m.: Devils at Flyers. NBCSP
7 p.m.: Vegas Golden Knights at Boston Bruins. (Live), NESN.
9 p.m.: New York Rangers at Colorado Avalanche. (Live), Hulu, ESPNPlus.
SOCCER
3 p.m.: Premier League Manchester City vs. Leeds United. NBCSP
NCAA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.: Furman at North Carolina. ESPN2
8 p.m.: Arizona State at Creighton. FSI
8 p.m.: Texas A&M CC at Minnesota. BIG10
9 p.m.: Alabama at Memphis. ESPN
9 p.m.: Arkansas Pine Bluff at Texas. ESPNU
9 p.m.: Santa Clara at Boise State. CBSSN

REGIONAL DIGEST

Saint Joseph to add varsity baseball program

The University of Saint Joseph announced that the school will add a baseball program beginning 2024. A search has begun to hire a coach and a club team is anticipated to compete during the 2022-23 academic year.

“As the University of Saint Joseph continues to grow, we are excited to add another athletics program,” said Director of Athletics Amanda Devitt. “Baseball is a natural fit and will continue our tradition of Blue Jay Athletics. We look forward to welcoming more quality student-athletes to our campus.”

The addition of baseball to USJ, which became a fully coeducational institution in the fall of 2018, will be the seventh men’s program added, joining cross country, soccer, basketball, swimming & diving, lacrosse, and tennis. Men’s tennis was most recently added at the club level for the 2021-22 academic year and is set to kick off its inaugural varsity season in the spring of 2023.

The USJ baseball program is initially anticipated to compete as a club team for the 2022-23 academic year with the plan to transition to a NCAA Division III varsity sport in the spring of 2024. The Blue Jays will join the Great Northeast Athletic Conference,

— Staff report



Jets middle linebacker C.J. Mosley looks on during Sunday’s game against the Saints in East Rutherford, New jersey. The Jets lost 30–9. **ADAM HUNGER/AP**

JETS

For once, defense wasn’t the problem

By DJ Bien-Aime II
New York Daily News

The Jets’ defensive outing against the Saints was progress, regardless of what the final score indicated.

Sure, someone can look at the 203 yards rushing, and 30 points allowed to proclaim the Jets defense still struggled.

But not so fast. Box scores can be deceptive.

The Jets held their offense to 344 yards. The Saints only had 23 points until a long touchdown run by Taysom Hill in the last two minutes.

By Gang Green’s standards, that’s absolutely progress. Can they build on it?

Yes, Alvin Kamara caused damage with 120 yards and a touchdown on 27 carries. But the Jets held the Saints to 3.6 yards per carry before the final touchdown run.

The Jets knew the Saints would provide a heavy dose of running and they met the challenge until garbage time. And they limited the passing attack, as Hill only threw for 175 yards.

The leaders behind an improved defensive performance were C.J. Mosley, Folorunso Fatukasi, John Franklin-Myers, Sheldon Rankins and Quinnen Williams.

Mosley had 17 tackles with 11 run stops and three stuffs. Williams suffered a shoulder injury but returned and had a tackle for loss, with a couple of run stops. Fatukasi had five run stops and three stuffs. Franklin-Myers had two run stuffs.

“I feel like we had an amazing plan when it came down to run stops and stuff like that,” Williams said. “Man, we got to continue to be consistent and execute every single play.”

Williams did lament the few big runs from Hill and Kamara which led to touchdowns. But he was pleased with the growth.

It’s a low bar, but it’s an improvement. And that’s all you can ask in a rough season.

If the offense didn’t struggle to score points and move the ball, the defensive performance wouldn’t have been wasted.

Robert Saleh was content with that outing from his defense.

“Defensively we were doing a really nice job handling all the different quarterback runs, all the different things that they were doing offensively, things we still got to get better at,” Saleh said. “I’m happy about the direction the defense is going.”

Next step: Repeat the performance or surpass it.

“You got to hit on repeat,” Saleh said. “Keep mastering the fundamentals that we’re asking you to master, mastering your technique and becoming efficient and seeing if you can unlock all your athleticism and play as fast as possible.”

One issue the Jets have faced during their defensive slide since Week 5 is whenever the unit shows a glimpse of improvement, they immediately revert the following game.

Against the Bengals, the Jets allowed only 318 yards. But the next game, they allowed 532 yards and 45 points.

In Zach Wilson’s return from a sprained PCL, the defense squeezed the Texans offense in a chokehold, with just 202 yards and a measly 14 points.

Then the Eagles gashed them for 418 yards and dropped 33 points. Consistency has been more elusive than any runner they’ve faced.

Now this week is an opportunity for the Jets to stack growth against the Dolphins. Miami has won five straight but doesn’t have a high-powered offense. The winning streak is centered on a defense that’s holding offenses to 11 points per game in this stretch. But their offense has only scored more than 24 points once since Week 7.

In their first matchup three weeks ago, the Jets held the Dolphins to 24 points. They did allow 388 yards, the Dolphins’ third highest mark of the season. But that’s valuable experience in preparation for a rematch.

Credit has to be given where it’s due. The Jets’ defense showed signs of progress. Now it’s time to build on that.

Good news on the injury report

The Jets get Michael Carter and Tevin Coleman, their lead horses in the run game, back. Carter suffered an ankle injury against the Dolphins that forced him to miss three week. And Coleman missed the Saints matchup with a concussion.

Carter and Coleman were missed on Sunday as the Jets finished with 78 yards on the ground, paced by Wilson’s 33. La’Mical Perine chipped in 28 yards rushing on seven carries and Ty Johnson only managed 17 yards on six carries.

Tight end Tyler Kroft will return from a back injury he suffered on Thursday Night Football against the Colts.

Cornerback Michael Carter II dealt with a concussion and missed the matchup against the Saints but will return to practice this week.

Key number

316 — The Giants’ offensive yards. While it might seem low for some teams, it allowed New York

Giants

from Page 1

Trophy in February 2012.

After Sunday’s ugly game, Judge reiterated he continued to see the team making progress. On Monday, he spelled out the progress after being asked to expound on it.

Judge sees good, young players developing at key positions. He said the team has the right type of players on the roster, ones who are willing to put the team first, represent the organization in a positive light and play and practice hard.

“When I took this job, I made it very, very clear that I was only going to do this if we were all committed to doing this the right way and that’s been something that’s been very clear from ownership on down,” Judge said Monday, adding co-owner John Mara and Steve Tisch have been very supportive.

When asked if those same owners had told him he would be back for a third season, the tone of

Judge’s voice changed. He seemed bothered by the question.

“Let me make this really perfectly clear, my or anybody else’s hypothetical future, I’m never going to comment (on),” he said, adding his sole focus is on the Giants’ game against the NFC East-leading Cowboys (9-4) on Sunday.

It remains to be seen how Mara and Tisch feel about the issue.

What’s working

In lieu of nothing, the Giants only had three penalties for 20 yards.

What needs help

The defense has one of its worst games. The 37 points were the third most allowed this season. The Chargers’ offense dominated the first half in taking a 24-7 lead. It gained 289 yards, had 18 first downs and held the ball for 18:14. Look at the stock down category for more.

Stock up

Eli Penny. The seldom-used full-back caught a 3-yard touchdown pass to tie the game early and ran for a 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter. It was a productive day, though not quite as productive as his younger brother, Rashaad of the Seahawks. He ran 16 times for 137 yards, scoring on runs of 32 and 47 yards, in Seattle’s win over Texas.

Stock down

Logan Ryan and Xavier McKinney. The safeties share the award. Playing two-deep coverage in the final minute of the first half, they somehow allowed Jalen Guyton to get behind them for a 59-yard touchdown pass from Justin Herbert, giving the Chargers a 24-7 halftime lead.

PATRIOTS

Belichick chimes in on Kingsbury’s comments

By Hayden Bird
Boston Globe

Bill Belichick joined WEEI’s “The Greg Hill Show” on Monday morning following the Patriots’ bye week.

As New England prepares for its Saturday clash in Indianapolis against the Colts, Belichick shared his thoughts on a few subjects:

Kingsbury’s Coach of the Year Award

In a recent press conference, Cardinals head coach Kliff Kingsbury — who currently presides over a 10-2 team atop the NFC — said he thinks that the NFL Coach of the Year Award should go to Belichick every year. Kingsbury was drafted by the Patriots in 2003 and spent a year with the organization, getting a ring after the team won Super Bowl XXXVIII.

“I mean, they should just name the award ‘Bill Belichick,’” Kingsbury told reporters. “Until he retires, I don’t think anybody else should get that award, honestly. He should be that any single year that he’s coaching.”

Belichick has won the award on three occasions. Asked about Kingsbury’s compliment, Belichick responded in kind.

“It was very nice of Kliff to toss that bouquet. I’ll toss it right back,” he said. “I think he’s done a great job and should be the Coach of the Year this year.”

Watching Army vs. Navy

Having grown up in Annapolis when his father was an assistant coach and scout for the Naval Academy, Belichick has a personal investment in the annual Army-Navy game.

And because the Patriots’ bye week coincided with the college rivalry matchup, Belichick was able to enjoy watching the game. Navy ended up pulling off an upset, defeating Army 17-13.

“It is nice to be able to sit and watch that game,” said Belichick. “That was great, especially watching Navy win. Sometimes we’re traveling, if we have an away game we’re on the plane or on the bus, so it’s nice to be able to sit there and take it in and enjoy a Navy victory. That’s always a good thing.”

to break a streak of four consecutive games with fewer than 300.

Injury report

Defensive lineman Leonard Williams left the game with an elbow injury in the first half and his status for the Cowboys is unknown. Quarterback Daniel Jones (neck) and cornerback Adoree Jackson (quad) have been out the past two games, and wide receiver Kadarious Toney (oblique) three straight. Toney was close to playing this past weekend. Jones has not been cleared for contact. He was in the New York City metropolitan-area on Monday getting more tests on his neck, Judge said.

Next steps

The Giants are home to face the Cowboys for the second time this season, Dallas won the first game 44-20. New York also has road games at Philadelphia and Chicago before closing against Washington on Jan. 9 at MetLife Stadium.

NBA

Rockets hoping to grow after following skid with streak

Associated Press

HOUSTON — During the Houston Rockets’ 15-game skid, coach Stephen Silas wasn’t too keen on getting out and about in the city.

After they got off the schneid by winning seven games in a row, things changed for the second-year coach.

“It’s exciting to walk around town and people will be like: ‘good job coach,’” Silas said. “There were some times where I just decided to stay home, and so I wouldn’t have to deal with (fans). So yeah, it’s a good feeling.”

The last victory in the winning streak came Wednesday when they

took down a Brooklyn Nets team led by former Rocket James Harden with Kevin Durant sitting out to rest.

The 114-104 triumph made the Rockets (8-18) the first team in NBA history to have a 15-game slide and a seven-game winning streak in one season, much less back-to-back.

This year’s up-and-down performance comes after Houston sunk to the NBA’s worst record at 17-55 in the wake of the trade of Harden and most of the team’s other veterans last season.

The Rockets have lost their last two games after the winning streak, but Silas remains encouraged that his team is making progress.

“It means a lot that the message is getting through,” he said. “We knew that we were going to have to grow this year and we’re doing that. We are growing and improving and it’s producing some wins, which is good as a coach.”

Perhaps most impressive about Houston’s winning streak was that all but one of the victories came without rookie Jalen Green. The second overall pick in the draft has missed the last eight games with a strained hamstring.

His absence has allowed some unlikely heroes to emerge in this stretch. Jae’Sean Tate scored a career-high 32 points in a 114-110 win over

the Thunder and was a consistent contributor in the other wins.

But the most surprising star for the team in the streak was Garrison Mathews, who was signed to a two-way contract in October.

The third-year pro averaged more than 16 points in the seven wins behind hot 3-point shooting. Mathews had 24 3-pointers in that span before setting a career-high by making six in a loss to Milwaukee on Friday night.

“When I first got here, we were on a losing streak and it was tough,” he said. “When you’re losing a lot of games, it’s hard to keep morale up. But just getting on the winning streak

was a huge boost to our confidence.”

Now that the streak is over, Mathews and the rest of the Rockets are focused on improving every day so they don’t end up in another long skid.

“We’ve just got to remember this feeling and continue that down the road, especially when things get hard,” Mathews said.

The Rockets are an exceedingly young team and had five 19-year-olds on the roster to start the season. They’re down to four now after Josh Christopher celebrated his 20th birthday Wednesday by scoring a career-high 18 points in the win over the Nets.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	19	8	.704	—
Philadelphia	15	12	.556	4
Boston	13	14	.481	6
Toronto	12	14	.481	6
New York	13	15	.444	7

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	16	12	.571	—
Washington	15	12	.556	½
Charlotte	15	13	.536	1
Atlanta	13	13	.500	2
Orlando	5	23	.179	11

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Milwaukee	18	10	.643	—
Chicago	17	10	.630	½
Cleveland	17	12	.586	1½
Indiana	12	16	.429	6
Detroit	4	22	.154	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	16	11	.593	—
Dallas	13	13	.500	2½
San Antonio	10	16	.385	5½
Houston	8	18	.308	7½
New Orleans	8	21	.276	9

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	19	7	.731	—
Denver	13	13	.500	6
Minnesota	12	15	.444	7½
Portland	11	16	.407	8½
Oklahoma City	8	18	.308	11

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	21	4	.840	—
Golden State	21	5	.808	½
L.A. Clippers	15	12	.556	7
L.A. Lakers	15	13	.536	7½
Sacramento	11	17	.393	11½

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 124, Sacramento 101
Cleveland 105, Miami 94
Golden State at Indiana, late
Houston at Atlanta, late
Milwaukee at Boston, late
Philadelphia at Memphis, late
Charlotte at Dallas, late
Washington at Denver, late
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Golden State at New York, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, ppd.
Phoenix at Portland, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Milwaukee 112, New York 97
Brooklyn 116, Detroit 104
Dallas 103, Oklahoma City 84
San Antonio 112, New Orleans 97
Minnesota 116, Portland 111
L.A. Lakers 106, Orlando 94

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	TUESDAY	
at North Carolina	11½	Furman		
at Wake Forest	16	at Miami (Fla.)		
at Clemson	8	at NC-Greensboro		
at Towson	8½	at Yale		
Monmouth	9	Austin Peay		
at South Florida	6	at St. F. Austin		
at St. F. Austin	11½	at Arizona State		
at Creighton	7½	at Texas Tech		
at Texas Tech	23	at Mississippi St.		
at Mississippi St.	9½	at Georgia State		
at Houston	23	at La-Lafayette		
DePaul	9½	at UIC		
at North Texas	11½	at Sam Houston		
at S. Alabma	8½	at Tarleton		
at Alabama	3	at Memphis		
at Boise State	6	at Santa Clara		
at Oregon State	6	at UC Davis		
UC Santa Barbara	2½	at Pacific		

NBA				
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG	
at Brooklyn	off	(off)	Toronto	
Golden State	5½	(off)	at New York	
at Portland	off	(off)	Phoenix	

NHL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line	TUESDAY
at Florida	-335	Ottawa	+265	at Florida
at Pittsburgh	-315	Montreal	+250	at Pittsburgh
at Tampa Bay	-205	Los Angeles	+168	at Tampa Bay
at Boston	-137	Vegas	+114	at Boston
at Philadelphia	-132	New Jersey	+110	at Philadelphia
New York	120	at Detroit	+100	at New York
at Minnesota	-118	Carolina	-102	at Minnesota
at Winnipeg	-280	Buffalo	+225	at Winnipeg
at Nashville	-131	Calgary	+110	at Nashville
at Dallas	-162	St. Louis	+134	at Dallas
at Colorado	-210	NY Rangers	+172	at Colorado
Toronto	-130	at Edmonton	+108	at Toronto
at Vancouver	-162	Columbus	+128	at Vancouver
at San Jose	-154	Seattle	+134	at San Jose

COLLEGE FOOTBALL				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	FRIDAY
Bahamas Bowl				
Toledo	10	(51½)	Mid. Tenn.	
Cure Bowl				
Coastal Carolina 10½	(63½)	N. Illinois		
Boca Raton Bowl	3	(68)	W. Kentucky	
Appalachian St.				
New Mexico Bowl				
Fresno State	1½	(51)	UTEP	
Independence Bowl				
BYU	7	(54½)	UAB	
Lending Tree Bowl				
Liberty	9	(58½)	E. Michigan	
L.A. Bowl				
Oregon State	7	(67½)	Utah State	
New Orleans Bowl				
La-Lafayette	5	(55)	Marshall	
Myrtle Beach Bowl				
Tulsa	9½	(53)	Old Dominion	
Idaho Potato Bowl				
Wyoming	3	(59)	Kent State	
Frisco Bowl				
UTSA	2½	(50)	San Diego St.	
Armed Forces Bowl				
Wednesday, Dec. 22				
Army	3½	(58½)	Missouri	
Frisco Football Classic				
Thurs., Dec. 23				
Miami (Ohio)	3	(54½)	North Texas	
Gasparilla Bowl				
Florida	7	(56½)	UCF	
Hawaii Bowl				
Memphis	7½	(59)	Hawaii	
Camellia Bowl				
Tuesday, Dec. 25				
Georgia State	4½	(50½)	Ball State	
Quick Lane Bowl				
Nevada	3½	(59)	W. Michigan	
Military Bowl				
Boston College	3	(51½)	East Carolina	
Birmingham Bowl				
Tuesday, Dec. 28				
Auburn	3	(51½)	Houston	
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl				
Louisville	1½	(55½)	Air Force	
Liberty Bowl				
Mississippi St.	8½	(59½)	Texas Tech	
Holiday Bowl				
NC State	1	(60)	UCLA	
Guaranteed Rate Bowl				
Minnesota	3½	(45)	West Virginia	
Fenway Bowl				
Wednesday, Dec. 29				
Pinstripe Bowl				
Maryland	2	(71)	SMU	
Cheez-It Bowl				
Iowa State	1	(45½)	Clemson	
Alamo Bowl				
Oklahoma	4½	(61½)	Oregon	
Duke's Mayo Bowl				
Thursday, Dec. 30				
North Carolina	8½	(58½)	South Carolina	
Music City Bowl				
Tennessee	4½	(63)	Purdue	
Peach Bowl				
Michigan State	2	(60)	Pittsburgh	
Las Vegas Bowl				
Wisconsin	7	(42)	Arizona State	
Gator Bowl				
Texas A&M	5	(58)	Wake Forest	
Sun Bowl				
Miami	2½	(60)	Washington St.	
Arizona Bowl				
Boise State	7½	(55)	Cent. Michigan	
CFF Semifinal Cotton Bowl Classic				
Alabama	13½	(58)	Cincinnati	
CFF Semifinal Orange Bowl				
Georgia	8	(47)	Michigan	
Outback Bowl				
Penn State	2½	(47)	Arkansas	
Fiesta Bowl				
Notre Dame	2	(45½)	Oklahoma St.	
Citrus Bowl				
Kentucky	2½	(44)	Iowa	
Rose Bowl				
Ohio State	6½	(66)	Utah	
Sugar Bowl				
Baylor Bowl	1	(55)	Mississippi	
Kansas Bowl	1½	(47)	LSU	

NFL WEEK 15				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	THURSDAY
Kansas City	4	(51)	at LA Chargers	
at Cleveland	5½	(42½)	Las Vegas	
at Indianapolis	2½	(45½)	New England	
at Buffalo	off		Carolina	
Dallas	10½	(44½)	at NY Giants	
at Jacksonville	3	(41)	Houston	
at Philadelphia	off		at Washington	
at Miami	off		NY Jets	
Arizona	14	(47½)	at Detroit	
Tennessee	2	(46½)	at Pittsburgh	
at San Francisco	8½	(46)	Atlanta	
at Denver	6½	(43½)	Cincinnati	
at LA Rams	6½	(43½)	Seattle	
Green Bay	5½	(43½)	at Baltimore	
at Tampa Bay	10½	(46½)	New Orleans	
Minnesota	4	(43½)	at Chicago	

For the latest odds, go to
FanDuel Sportsbook.
https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	27	18	5	4	40	101	75		
Toronto	29	19	8	2	40	93	75		
Tampa Bay	27	17	6	4	38	89	74		
Boston	24	14	8	2	30	69	62		
Detroit	28	13	12	3	29	78	96		
Buffalo	27	8	15	4	20	73	97		
Ottawa	25	8	16	1	17	67	93		
Montreal	29	6	20	3	15	62	102		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		

Washington	28	17	5	6	40	97	71
Carolina	27	19	7	1	39	85	58
N.Y. Rangers	27	18	6	3	39	79	68
Pittsburgh	27	14	8	5	33	80	70
Columbus	26	14	11	1	29	86	86
New Jersey	26	10	11	5	25	74	86
Philadelphia	26	10	12	4	24	65	88
N.Y. Islanders	23	7	11	5	19	50	70

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Minnesota	28	19	8	1	39	106	82		
Nashville	28	17	10	1	35	81	75		
St. Louis	28	15	8	5	35	96	79		
Colorado	25	16	7	2	34	109	84		
Winnipeg	27	13	9	5	31	82	76		
Dallas	25	13	10	2	28	69	70		
Chicago	27	10	15	2	22	62	86		
Arizona	27	5	20	2	12	48	101		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Anaheim	30	16	9	5	37	94	82		
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62		
Edmonton	26	16	10	0	32	90	80		
Vegas	27	16	11	0	32	95	85		
San Jose	28	15	12	1	31	75	77		
Los Angeles	26	12	10	4	28	70	68		
Vancouver	29	12	15	2	26	72	85		
Seattle	27	9	15	3	21	77	98		

MONDAY'S RESULT
Calgary at Chicago, ppd.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Montreal at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 7p.m.
Vegas at Boston, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, ppd.
Carolina at Minnesota, 8p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 9p.m.
Toronto at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Columbus at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Seattle at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Nashville 1, N.Y. Rangers 0
Anaheim 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Colorado 3, Florida 2
Vegas 6, Minnesota 4
Vancouver 2, Carolina 1

TENNIS

WTA OPEN BLS DE LIMOGES
Monday at Palais des Sports de Beau-
blanc, Limoges, France, outdoors-hard
WOMEN'S SINGLES, Round of 32
#3 Caroline Garcia d. Ankit Raina, 7-6(7), 4-6, 6-4.
#8 Ana Bogdan d. M. Bolkvadze, 6-2, 6-1
Elsa Jacquemot d. Anna Blinkova, 7-6(7), 6-1.
Tat. Maria d. I. Shymanovich, 6-3, 6-3
Cristina Bucsa d. Lucia Bronzetti, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2.
Leolia Jeanjean vs. Mallaurie Noel, late

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	9	4	0	.692	350	200
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	363	229
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	226	397
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	324	290
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	371	283
Houston	2	11	0	.154	177	356
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	180	340
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	304	284
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	354	293
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	278	289
Pittsburgh	6	6	1	.500	272	322
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	4	0	.692	351	268
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0	.615	351	338
Denver	7	6	0	.538	278	275
Las Vegas	6	7	0	.462	283	360

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Providence,
5 p.m., FOX

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: vs. Louisville, 3:30 p.m.
(at Mohegan Sun), ESPN

UConn
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Kylish Hicks (1) led Merganthaler Vocational Tech to a state championship with two fourth quarter intereptions on Dec. 5. A week later, he committed to play at UConn. **KIM HAIRSTON/BALTIMORE SUN**

Recruiting

from Page 1

tackles and, in the fourth quarter, made two end zone interceptions. Hicks had offers from Kent State, Old Dominion and a number of FCS schools.

On Monday, former Delaware commit Justin Joly, a 6-foot-4, 215-pound wide receiver from

Iona Prep in New Rochelle, New York, announced he will be continuing his academic and athletic career at UConn. Joly caught five passes for 73 yards and one touchdown and had seven carries for 76 yards and a touchdown in the Gaels' 38-22 victory over St. Francis in the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association championship game. For the season, Joly

had 67 catches for 1,033 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Hicks and Murawski are expected to sign letters of intent on Wednesday. Victor Rosa, a quarterback from Bristol Central, will sign with UConn in a ceremony at his high school, and Derek Spearman, a cornerback from Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, will sign in a ceremony there. UConn has 10 players committed from the

Class of 2022, including five from Connecticut high schools or prep schools.

Among notable offers the Huskies have made lately are Prince Samuels, senior wide receiver for Class L runner-up Windsor, and Jaiden Spearman (Class of 2024), Derek's younger brother, who also plays at Loomis Chaffee.

The 6-foot-5 Samuels made two touchdown catches against St.

Huskies

from Page 1

Alabama in a span of three games.

Baylor has won a nation-leading 15 consecutive games, none by fewer than eight points, including its memorable 86-70 win over Gonzaga in April for the national title. The Bears also had wins over Stanford, Arizona State and Michigan State to start this season before defeating then-No. 6 Villanova in a 57-36 victory on Sunday.

"That team was great last year," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "I think this team is really good and could be as good."

The Big East has four teams in the Top 25 with Villanova at No. 9, Seton Hall at No. 16 after beating Texas on Thursday night, UConn and Xavier at No. 22. Providence just missed the cut, receiving 57 votes.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this report. Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com.



UConn forward Akok Akok dunks against St. Bonaventure during the first half Saturday in Newark, New Jsersey. The Huskies bounced back from a loss to West Virginia with a 74-64 victory. **NOAH K. MURRAY/AP**

McLean

from Page 1

rebounds in 24 appearances and even saw 11 minutes against Arkansas on the road.

The Baltimore native arrived in Storrs as the No. 25 overall recruit in the class of 2020 and a McDonald's All-American.

"Mir can offensive rebound and defensive rebound. So if we can get Mir to do more of that, otherwise, we're playing five on four on offense," Auriemma said after the Huskies beat Seton Hall last week. He also added he would like to see more physical and mental toughness from her. "We need to figure out a way to get Mir to do more than just be someone who goes to go rebound. Believe me, there's a place for that. I've got to find a way to get her a little more versatile."

The Huskies will be down to 12 players on their roster with four of them out due to injury.

While McLean may not have made a big impact on this year's Huskies, her departure makes the return of Aubrey Griffin all the more important. Griffin and McLean shared some of the same athleticism, ability to crash the glass and knack for the ball that few others on the team offer.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

UConn

from Page 1

also missing backup point guard Nika Mühl and sharp-shooter Azzi Fudd due to foot injuries. Junior forward Aubrey Griffin has yet to make her season debut due to an assortment of ailments, including a high-ankle sprain and back issues.

The Huskies still boast two Top 25 wins this season, previously taking down No. 16 USF (then-No. 13) and No. 21 Notre Dame (then No. 24). Their other loss came to top-ranked South Carolina.

The Gamecocks remained the unanimous top choice after holding off then-No. 8 Maryland on Sunday. The Gamecocks received all 30 votes from a national media panel and have now beaten four teams that were ranked in the top 10 this season. The Gamecocks visit No. 15 Duke on Wednesday.

N.C. State was again second in the poll, followed by Stanford, Arizona and Baylor. The Wildcats now have their best ranking ever at No. 4.

Louisville moved up to No. 6, just ahead of UConn, and the two teams will play Sunday in the Hall of Fame Showcase. Baylor will face Michigan in the other game at the event held in Connecticut in a rematch of last season's NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 matchup that the Bears won in overtime.

Tennessee was tied with UConn at No. 7. Maryland and Indiana rounded out the top 10.

UConn coach Geno Auriemma implied that Mühl, Fudd and Griffin may wait until after the Louisville game to return to action, as it would give them more recovery time with the Huskies not playing again after that until Dec. 29. Griffin has dressed and warmed up with the team the last two games, so her return shouldn't be that far off.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this report. Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Young and Tide lead with 3 1st teamers on AP All-America team

Associated Press

Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young and Alabama teammates Will Anderson Jr. and Jameson Williams were selected All-Americans by Associated Press, giving the top-ranked Crimson Tide more players on the first team than any other school.

The AP All-America team presented by Regions Bank,

selected by a panel of Top 25 college football poll voters, was released Monday.

Young became the fourth Alabama player, and first Tide quarterback, to win the Heisman on Saturday night. Anderson, who leads the nation in sacks with 15.5, was fifth in the Heisman voting.

Alabama (12-1) will face No. 4 Cincinnati (13-0) in the College Football Playoff semifinals Dec. 31.

The Tide will bring five players who received AP All-American honors into their playoff game. Tackle Evan Neal made the second team and safety Jordan Battle was a third-team selection.

Cincinnati is represented on the first team by cornerback Ahmad Gardner, who was a second-team All-American last season. Fellow Bearcats cornerback Coby Bryant made the second team.

The other playoff semifinal on New Year's Eve, No. 2 Michigan (12-1) against No. 3 Georgia (12-1), will feature four more first-team All-Americans.

Defensive end Aidan Hutchinson, the Heisman runner-up, and kicker Jake Moody are All-Americans for the Wolverines. Georgia's top-ranked defense is represented by defensive tackle Jordan Davis and linebacker Nakobe Dean.

Michigan linebacker David Ojabo was chosen for the second team and running back Hassan Haskins was a third-team selection.

Georgia matched Alabama with five players across the three teams. Defensive tackle Devonte Wyatt and freshman tight end Brock Bowers made the second team and safety Lewis Cine was a third-team choice.



Safety Tip of the Day

Early signs of hypothermia include the “umbles” - stumbles, bumbles, grumbles, and mumbles. These are signs that cold is affecting your body and brain and should be seen as a warning to get inside immediately.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Vlhova sticks to reduced schedule



Slovakian skier Petra Vlhova will stick to her reduced World Cup schedule this season, making it unlikely she'll become a threat to Mikaela Shiffrin's bid for the overall title. Initially a slalom specialist, Vlhova became the first overall champion from Slovakia after starting in all 31 races last season. But she has been sitting out the downhill and super-G events so far this season, while also skipping a parallel event in Austria, which she won last year. "This is our plan, and we will keep (it) like this," Vlhova said in a video conference call Monday, adding she planned to compete in only one or two speed races in January in the buildup to the Beijing Olympics. Vlhova said she eyed a start in the super-G in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee on Jan. 16 and was considering a trip to Garmisch-Partenkirchen for Jan. 29-30 speed races, the last World Cup events before the Olympics. "We want to do some speed as well," Vlhova said. "We want to do something, but not everything." The Slovakian trails Shiffrin by 185 points in third place in the overall World Cup standings. Sofia Goggia is second, 90 points behind Shiffrin.

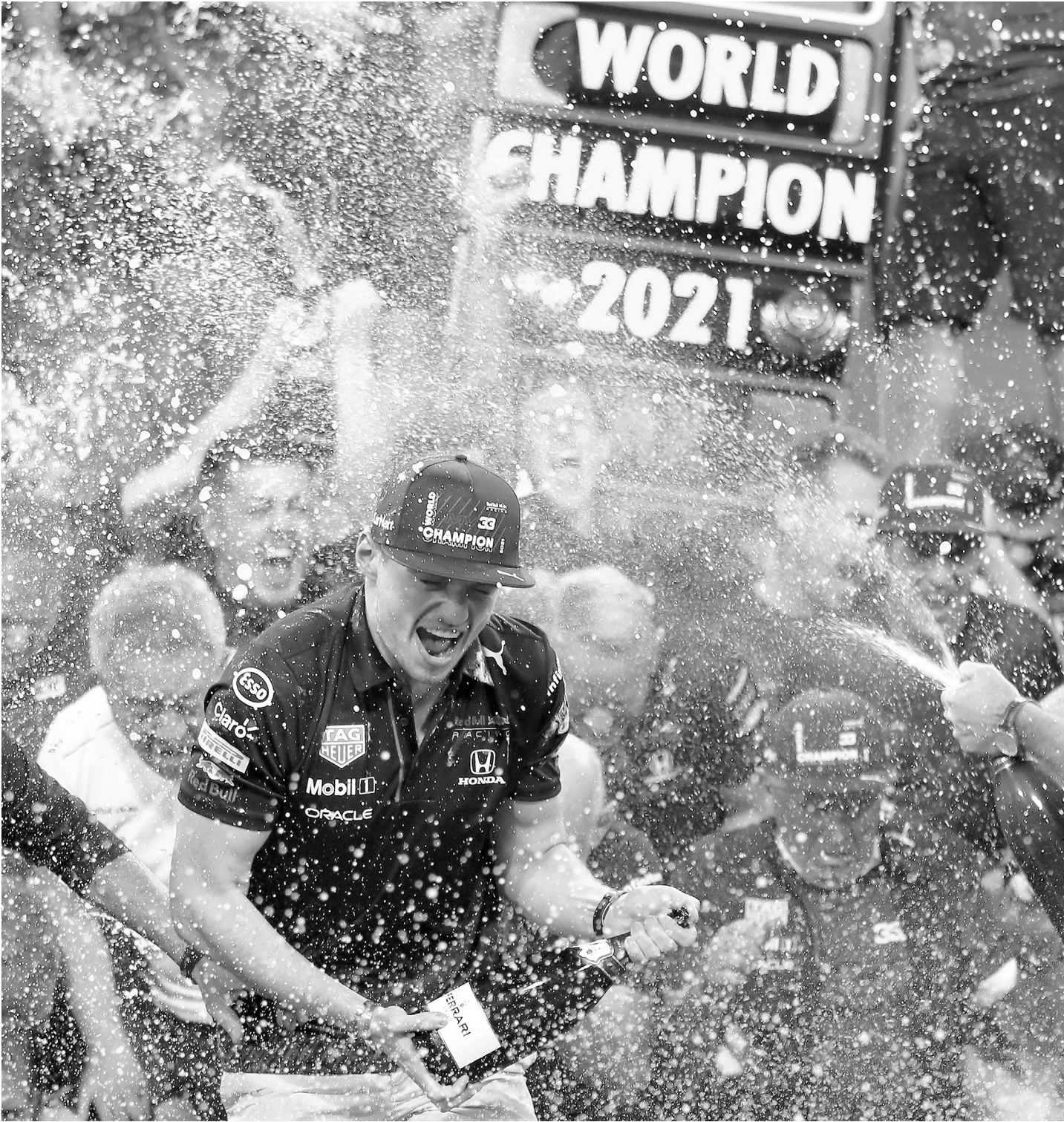
Auburn QB Nix plans to transfer



Auburn quarterback Bo Nix is in search of a new school. The three-year starter said in a video posted to Instagram on Sunday that he plans to leave Auburn as a graduate transfer. Nix didn't name any potential destinations. The former five-star recruit started the first 34 games of his career before a season-ending ankle injury against Mississippi State. LSU transfer T.J. Finley started the final two games for the Tigers, who finished 6-6 and are set to face Houston in the Birmingham Bowl on Dec. 28. The son of former Auburn quarterback Patrick Nix called the decision to leave "the toughest I have ever made." "I have loved Auburn from the moment I knew Auburn," Bo Nix said. "All I ever wanted to do was win a championship for Auburn. I can truthfully say that I've given everything that I have for that goal, and I have played in so many amazing games because of it." Auburn went 9-4 in Nix's first season as a starter and 6-5 last year in the pandemic-shortened season. Coach Gus Malzahn was fired after the regular season concluded and Bryan Harsin was hired to replace him.

NFL requiring COVID-19 boosters

The NFL is requiring players, coaches and other team personnel to receive a COVID-19 booster by Dec. 27. In a memo sent to teams on Monday the league said: "Given the increased prevalence of the virus in our communities, our experts have recommended that we implement the CDC's recommendation." The league's requirement extends to all Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals who have previously received the vaccine. The CDC recommends an individual who received a second Pfizer or Moderna shot to complete the primary vaccine series more than six months earlier should receive a booster shot. An individual that received the Johnson and Johnson shot more than two months earlier should receive a booster shot. The following do not have to meet the requirement: 1. An individual who is not eligible for a booster pursuant to the CDC definition. 2. An individual who is in the 90-day test holiday after a confirmed positive COVID-19 test under the league protocols. 3. An individual who received monoclonal antibodies within the immediately preceding 90 days. 4. An individual whose "S" antibody level on an antibody test administered via BRL (BioReference Lab) at the club facility is 2500 or greater. —AP



Driver Max Verstappen celebrates with his team after becoming F1 champion Sunday in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. KAMRAN JEBREILI/AP

FORMULA ONE COMMENTARY

Driving the plot

Is it racing or entertainment?
F1 walks line in season finale

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

The one thing Max Verstappen requested — over and over and over again — was that the race stewards not interfere with the Formula One title-deciding finale with any questionable or inconsistent calls. He didn't get his wish. How you felt about it Monday depended on your view of racing. Is it sport? Or is it entertainment? Verstappen won his first world championship Sunday at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix with a pass of Lewis Hamilton on the final lap of a riveting season. His 10th win of the year made Verstappen the first Dutch champion and denied Hamilton a record-breaking eighth title. But it will forever be a controversial win because of the role race director Michael Masi played in the messy outcome. Hamilton had a lead of nearly 12 seconds and Red Bull conceded Verstappen's only chance was from "some luck from the racing gods" when a crash by Nicholas Latifi with five laps remaining put the ending in Masi's control. Masi tried to figure out what to do next. "You only need one racing lap!" Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said in urging Masi to get Latifi's mess cleaned up in time to give Verstappen one final shot at Hamilton. "Michael, this isn't right," Toto Wolff of Mercedes objected as Masi deliberated. Masi could have sided with Wolff and let the race end behind the safety car with

Hamilton cruising past Michael Schumacher into history under yellow. Or, he could have thrown a red flag, allowed all drivers to pit for new tires, and then gone green for a final shootout. The race director waffled during his decision-making process and in that time, Verstappen indeed pitted for fresh, faster tires while Hamilton stayed out to maintain the lead. Masi then moved the lapped traffic out of Verstappen's way and gave him and Hamilton one final lap over 3.2 miles to decide the championship. Verstappen caught Hamilton in Turn 5 — "No, Mikey, no!" screamed Wolff, "that was so not right!" — and held him off for the title. The final lap was the only lap Verstappen led all day; Hamilton led 51 of the 58 trips around Yas Marina Circuit. Wolff was furious but was rebuked time and again by Masi and the FIA. Masi scolded him over the radio: "Toto, it's called a motor race, OK? We went car racing," and Mercedes lodged a pair of protests. It took almost five hours for the FIA to deny them both and rule the race official, and Mercedes has now asked for reconsideration from the International Court of Appeal. Entertained yet? F1 was already the top motorsports series in the world but its popularity has exploded in North America over the three-year run of the "Drive to Survive" behind-the-scenes Netflix docuseries. The show has removed the velvet rope for viewers and given them access like never before to teams, drivers and drama. The racing just happens to be what the stars of the show do for a living. Few television producers would greenlight any script that called for an enthralling back-and-forth season that

spanned 22 races across four continents to end under yellow. But in ensuring a climactic finale to the upcoming fourth installment of "Drive to Survive," a decision was made that ran afoul of the purity of Formula One. The lack of gimmicks is what open wheel racing fans love. IndyCar declined in 2020 to throw a red flag for a late crash at the Indianapolis 500 and Scott Dixon didn't get a final challenge on Takuma Sato, who became the 11th winner in more than a century to collect the checkered flag under caution. Conversely, since NASCAR implemented in 2007 its green-white-checkered flag rule of using multiple restarts to ensure a green-flag finish, eight of 15 Daytona 500s have been decided in overtime. NASCAR tweaked its rules to give fans the finish they paid for, while IndyCar has resisted attempts to push it down a similar path of instant gratification. Formula One was supposed to be above manipulations. That's changed since American-owned company Liberty Media became F1's parent company in 2017 and "the way it's always been done" no longer reigns supreme. This year saw the introduction of sprint qualifying in three races, which will be doubled to six in 2022, a late red-flag followed by a final standing restart at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, and the awarding of only half points for the sixth time in F1 history when rain allowed for a measly one lap run behind the safety car in Belgium. And yet there was still consternation in the paddock over the ending. Maybe it wasn't pure racing and, in the end, unacceptable for F1 standards. But it sure was entertaining and will be talked about forever.

NFL ANALYSIS

Blowouts of bad teams is the theme

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

Josh Allen wouldn't let Tom Brady and the Buccaneers cruise to a lopsided victory after the Bills fell behind by 21 points at halftime. Allen led an impressive comeback with his arm and legs to force overtime before Brady connected with Breshad Perriman for a 58-yard catch-and-run touchdown to win it. Several other teams didn't show Buffalo's fight on Sunday. Most had less at stake. Seven games were decided by 15 or more points, including five by at least 20. Considering the teams on the losing end, it wasn't a surprise. The Lions (1-11-1), Jaguars (2-11), Texans (2-11), Jets (3-10) and Giants (4-9) were outscored 158-53. They'll spend the final four weeks fighting for draft positioning, and on the wrong side of more routs. "It's going to flip," Jets coach Robert Saleh promised after a 30-9 loss to New Orleans. "This crappy part is part of the process, but at the same time it's not discouraging by any sense of the imagination because we've got a lot of young guys getting a lot of good playing time. And I promise you they're learning from all this." Jets fans can't be blamed for being skeptical. New York will miss the playoffs for the 11th straight year and has had only one winning season in that span. Coming off its first win of the season, the Lions stayed close for a half in Denver. The Broncos then pulled away for a 38-10 win. "It just wasn't good enough," Lions coach Dan Campbell said. They've been saying the same thing for decades in Detroit. The Lions haven't won a playoff game since 1992. The dysfunctional Jaguars lost 20-0 at Tennessee following a report that rookie coach Urban Meyer and his staff aren't getting along. The Jags have just one winning season in the last 14 years yet has suffered more embarrassment under Meyer in only 13 games. "It hasn't exactly materialized the way I expected it to have, the experience of winning games," said Meyer, a three-time national champion at Florida and Ohio State who has learned it's not easy to win in the NFL. The Texans fell to the Seahawks 33-13, their 23rd loss in 29 games. They couldn't win with Deshaun Watson last year. They can't win with him getting paid to sit out games this season. Houston visits Jacksonville next week. The winner may be the real loser for dropping a spot in the draft order. The Giants are one loss away from securing their fifth straight losing season and eighth in nine years after a 37-21 loss to the Chargers. The biggest question in New York will be coach Joe Judge's job security after only two seasons. "I am the head coach and everything in this program reflects on me," Judge said. "I will never shy away from that. I do not make any excuses and I do not hide from that either. I am not a finger pointer. I am not an excuse maker and I am never trying to deflect anything. In terms of the direction the program is going, there is a lot of things that I see week after week with our players and where we are going that I am encouraging all the way." Others may need a microscope to see the progress Judge is talking about. The worst loss of the day belonged to Las Vegas. The Chiefs routed the Raiders for the second time in five games. The Chiefs won this one 48-9. The Raiders (6-7) are clinging to playoff hopes, but they've lost five of six and aren't going anywhere. "I try my best to stay positive, but this sucks," Raiders quarterback Derek Carr said. He could've been speaking on behalf of many players on bad teams.

AP Pro Football Writers Dennis Waszak and Mark Long contributed to this report.

WEATHER

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Sunshine, some fair weather clouds, mild. North wind around 5 mph.

HIGH 50°
LOW 26°

WEDNESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mixed clouds and some sunshine, a bit cooler.

HIGH 48°
LOW 40°

THURSDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, chance for a shower, quite mild.

HIGH 58°
LOW 42°

FRIDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Morning sunshine, then increasing cloudiness.

HIGH 52°
LOW 34°

SATURDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, chance for some showers.

HIGH 46°
LOW 29°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

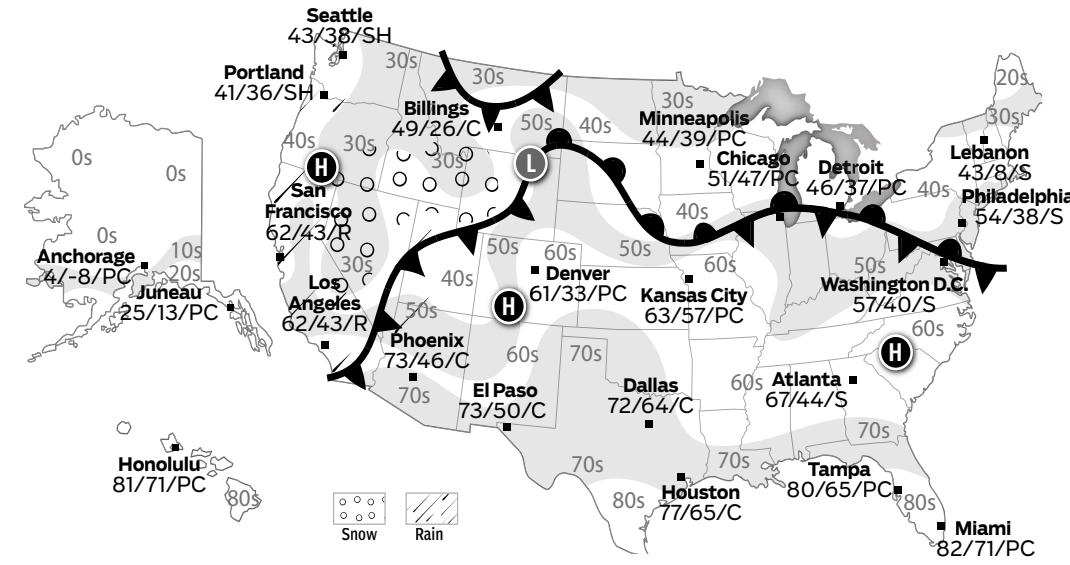
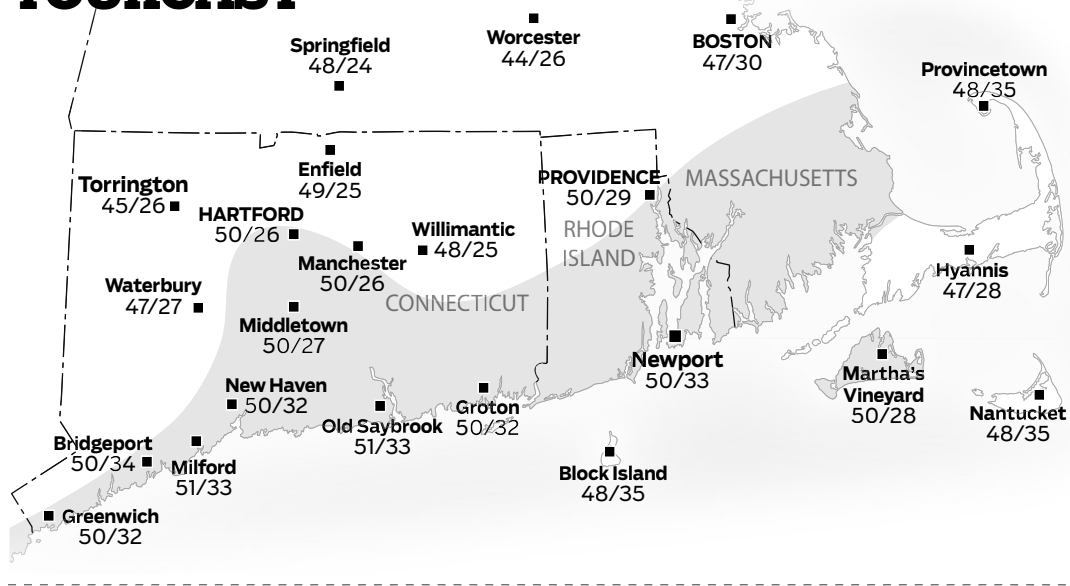
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Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

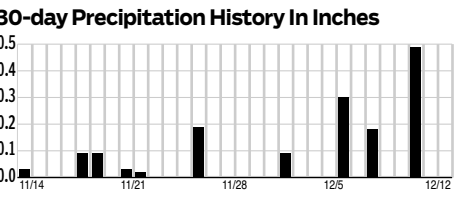
So far December has gotten off to a mild start with temperatures averaging just over four degrees above normal in the Greater Hartford area and close to three degrees above normal along the shoreline in Bridgeport. Tuesday will continue to the mild trend with high temperatures close to 50 degrees both in the Greater Hartford area and along the shoreline. The next chance for some showers will be Wednesday night into early Thursday as a trough of low pressure moves into the region. Despite all December's warmth, the potential still exists for snow, at least for a time, Friday night.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.13
Month to date	1.06 1.81
Total this year	53.05 44.78
Snowfall In Inches	
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.3
Total this year	2.1 5.4

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	5:59 a.m.	a.m.	46°
	6:13 p.m.	12:37 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	7:10 a.m.	12:38 a.m.	47°
	7:24 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	9:53 a.m.	4:24 a.m.	
Madison	10:07 p.m.	5:16 p.m.	46°
	7:17 a.m.	12:55 a.m.	
New Haven	8:44 p.m.	1:38 p.m.	
	7:37 a.m.	1:19 a.m.	46°
	8:04 p.m.	2:02 p.m.	
Stamford	7:41 a.m.	1:33 a.m.	48°
	8:08 p.m.	2:16 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 6.98 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	P Cloudy	P Cloudy	P Cloudy
Wind	N, 10	N, 10-15	N, 10-15
Seas	1-2 ft.	1-2 ft.	2-4 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good 40 Low 1 24°

Air Quality Today Ultraviolet Index Today Wind Chill Today

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:10 a.m.	7:11 a.m.
Sunset	4:20 p.m.	4:21 p.m.
Moonrise	1:53 p.m.	2:16 p.m.
Moonset	2:45 a.m.	3:47 a.m.

Moon Phase

Full Dec 18 Last Dec 26 New Jan 2 First Jan 9

Temperature	High	Low
Monday	54 at 2:29 p.m	35 at 6:55 a.m
Normal for date	41	25
Record for date	61 in 1920	-1 in 1962
A year ago	61	31
Range this year	99	1

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND Bangor 36 11 S Burlington 39 16 S Caribou 27 10 PC Concord 45 12 S Montpelier 38 8 S Mt. Wash. 15 8 S Portland 45 18 S Woods Hole 48 28 S NATION Albany 45 19 S Albuquerque 58 41 C Atlantic City 53 32 S Baltimore 56 33 S Bismarck 42 19 PC Boise 43 18 SF Buffalo 43 32 PC Charleston 69 45 PC Cincinnati 56 42 PC Cleveland 51 37 PC Indianapolis 55 47 PC Jacksonville 69 55 PC Las Vegas 59 39 SH Miami Beach 81 73 PC Milwaukee 46 43 PC Nashville 62 45 PC New Orleans 75 60 C New York 54 39 S Okl. City 70 61 PC Omaha 57 47 PC Orlando 78 63 C Pittsburgh 49 33 S Raleigh 61 36 S St. Louis 64 58 C Salt Lake City 53 26 C San Antonio 73 65 C San Diego 61 48 R San Juan 85 74 SH Tucson 74 47 C WORLD Amsterdam 46 39 SH Athens 54 45 SH Bangkok 91 72 PC Barbados 85 74 SH Beijing 46 23 S Beirut 73 60 T Berlin 46 41 SH Bermuda 70 63 S Budapest 36 30 C Buenos Aires 79 64 SH Cairo 69 61 PC Cancun 83 76 T Dubai 84 63 PC Dublin 46 43 S Edinburgh 49 47 C Helsinki 37 32 R Hong Kong 72 68 PC Istanbul 54 45 SH Jerusalem 64 54 R Johannesburg 79 61 T Singapore 90 75 SH Stockholm 36 29 C Sydney 77 61 PC Tel Aviv 71 55 T Tokyo 46 37 SH Toronto 43 37 S Vancouver 37 36 SF Warsaw 34 33 SH	KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms
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Heating Degree Days

Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Dec 13	1313	1556

30-day Temperature History

Atmosphere 30.19 at 7 a.m. 30.14 at 1 a.m.
Barometer 24° at 7 p.m. 18° at 5 p.m.

MONDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CTC
KAYNOR TECH AT CHENEY TECH, CANCELED

Others
GOODWIN TECH 40, INNOVATION 20

GOODWIN TECH (1-0): Avalise Hernandez 3-1-8, Tomoya Bennett 1-1-3, Ericka Aponte 5-3-13, Megan Lukeszewski 6-0-14, Arianna White 1-0-2. Totals 16-5-40.

INNOVATION (0-1): Kaylah Forde 1-0-2, Te'jah Roberts 5-4-14, Rose Lilliam 1-0-2, Nataly Rodriguez 1-0-2, Karina Falcon 0-0-0. Totals 8-4-20.

GT; 6; 10; 12; 12; --; 40
I; 5; 6; 2; 7; --; 20

CROMWELL 39, NEWTOWN 29

CROMWELL (1-0): Grace Mikan 2-0-6, Cameryn Hickey 2-4-9, Jessica Grodzicki 3-1-8, Mevaeh Clark 1-2-4, Adela Cecunjanin 3-4-12. Totals 11-11-39.

NEWTOWN (0-1): Chloe O'Connell 1-4-7, Kristen Reisert 3-0-6, Bridget McCleary 1-0-2, Isabella Gerace 2-1-5, Alexander Bradley 2-4-8, Molly McCleary 0-1-1. Totals 9-10-29.

C; 12; 9; 7; 11; --; 39
N; 7; 5; 8; --; 29

COGINCHAUG 42, LYMAN HALL 32

COGINCHAUG (1-0): Allison Sambor 2-0-4, Serena Fournier 1-2-4, Katie Farr 1-0-2, Alyssa Woodward 2-0-5, Mia Poturnicki 5-2-12, Allison Strang 0-2-2, Chloe Shafr 4-4-13. Totals 15-10-42.

LYMAN HALL (0-1): Macy Buccheri 1-0-3, Lauren Cretella 2-0-4, Callie Chordas 1-0-2, Shea Barron 7-2-18, Callie Casulla 1-1-3, Allyn Martin 1-0-2. Totals 13-3-32.

C; 8; 10; 12; 12; --; 42
LH; 9; 9; 11; 3; --; 32

EAST HAMPTON 71, FISHERS ISLAND (N.Y.) 19

CIVIC LEADERSHIP 58, HMTCA 19

RHAM 51, ROCKVILLE 28

COVENTRY 55, HALE-RAY 34

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 6, SOUTH WINDSOR 4

SCC
EAST HAVEN CO-OP 9, CHESHIRE 7

EH; 3; 2; 4; --; 9
C; 1; 2; 4; --; 7

Goals: EH--Gennaro Pompano (3), Griffin McGlinchey (2), Parker Sprinkle (2), Josh Berg, Nicholas Ruggiero; C--Zach Olson (2), Damon Zurilo, Lukas Sargolini, Aidan Larke, Rocco Ocone-Krause, Ryan Fraser. Saves: EH--Ryan Sheldon, 31; C--Amaan Chaudhry, 19. Rec.: EH--1-0; C--0-1.

Others
GREENWICH 4, HAND 0

TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-East: East Catholic at East Hartford, 6:45p.m.
CCC-West: Conard at Simsbury, 6:45 p.m.; Avon at Southington, 6:45p.m.

CCC-Inter: Lewis Mills at Farmington, 5 p.m.; Northwest Catholic at Bloomfield, 5:15p.m.; Windsor at Newington, 5:30 p.m.; Hartford Public at Platt, 5:30p.m.; New Britain at RHAM, 6:45p.m.; Bristol Central at Rocky Hill, 6:45p.m.; Plainville at Enfield, 6:45p.m.; Wethersfield at Manchester, 6:45p.m.; Middletown at Hall, 6:45p.m.; E.O. Smith at Bristol Eastern, 6:45p.m.; Maloney at South Windsor, 6:45p.m.; Berlin at Glastonbury, 6:45p.m.

NCCC: Bolton at Stafford, 6p.m.; Somers at Windsor Locks, 6:45p.m.

Shoreline: Old Saybrook at Portland, 7p.m.

CTC: Vinal Tech at Whitney Tech, 4:30 p.m.; Prince Tech at Kaynor Tech, 5:30 p.m.

CRAL: Classical at University, 6p.m.; Weaver at Aerospace, 6:15p.m.

ECC: East Lyme at Bacon Academy, 6 p.m.

Others: Branford at SMSA, 6:45p.m.; Canton at Sheehan, 7p.m.; Coventry at Norwich Tech, 7p.m.

SUNDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULT

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Basketball HoF Invitational (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
IONA 91, YALE 77

MONDAY'S COLLEGE RESULT

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SACRED HEART AT COLUMBIA, LATE

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Central at Stony Brook, 6:30p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at Hartford, 7p.m.
Monmouth at Yale, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Yale at Drexel, 5p.m.
Central at Rutgers, 7p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Fairfield at Fairleigh Dickinson, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Southern at Sacred Heart, 2p.m.

AHL

Standings

Atlantic

Hartford 19 12 4 2 1 27 .711

Springfield 22 14 6 2 0 30 .682

Providence 20 10 6 3 1 24 .600

Hershey 19 9 7 2 1 21 .553

W-B/Scranton 20 9 8 1 2 21 .525

Charlotte 23 11 10 2 0 24 .522

Bridgeport 24 8 13 1 2 19 .396

Lehigh Valley 21 5 11 4 1 15 .357

North

Utica 20 17 1 2 0 36 .900

Rochester 19 13 6 0 0 26 .684

Toronto 20 10 8 1 1 22 .550

Cleveland 23 10 8 2 3 25 .543

Laval 23 11 10 2 0 24 .522

Belleville 22 11 11 0 0 22 .500

Syracuse 20 7 10 2 1 17 .425

Central

Chicago 22 16 4 1 1 34 .773

Manitoba 23 15 7 1 0 31 .674

Rockford 21 10 9 1 1 20 .524

Iowa 21 9 9 2 1 21 .500

Grand Rapids 22 9 10 2 1 21 .477

Texas 20 7 9 3 1 18 .450

Milwaukee 22 9 12 1 0 19 .432

Pacific

Stockton 20 15 2 2 1 33 .825

Ontario 19 13 5 0 1 27 .711

Henderson 18 9 7 1 1 18 .556

Colorado 21 10 8 1 2 23 .548

Tucson 18 9 8 1 0 19 .548

San Diego 19 9 9 1 0 19 .500

Abbotsford 19 8 8 2 1 19 .500

Bakersfield 17 6 8 1 2 15 .441

San Jose 19 7 11 1 0 15 .395

TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Rochester at Charlotte, 7p.m.

Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 7p.m.

Milwaukee at Iowa, 8p.m.

Henderson at Tucson, 7:30p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Big East basketball standings

MEN'S

Team

CONF CPCT

OVR PCT

Providence 0-0 .000 10-1 .909

Seton Hall 0-0 .000 9-1 .900

Xavier 0-0 .000 9-1 .900

DePaul 0-0 .000 8-1 .889

UConn 0-0 .000 9-2 .818

Creighton 0-0 .000 8-2 .800

St. John's 0-0 .000 8-2 .800

Marquette 0-0 .000 8-3 .727

Butler 0-0 .000 7-3 .700

Villanova 0-0 .000 7-3 .700

Georgetown 0-0 .000 5-4 .556

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULT

Garden State Hardwood Classic
SETON HALL 77, RUTGERS 63

TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE

DePaul at UIC, 8p.m.
Arizona State at Creighton, 8p.m.

WOMEN'S TEAM

DePaul 2-0 1.000 8-2 .800

Creighton 2-0 1.000 6-2 .750

Marquette 2-0 1.000 6-2 .750

UConn 1-0 1.000 5-5 .500

St. John's 1-1 500 5-4 .556

Georgetown 1-1 500 6-5 .545

 Providence 1-1 500 6-5 .545 || Seton Hall 0-2 .000 4-4 .500 |
| Villanova 0-2 .000 5-5 .500 |
| Xavier 0-2 .000 4-6 .400 |
| Butler 0-2 .000 0-10 .000 |

MONDAY'S RESULT

COPPIN STATE AT GEORGETOWN, LATE

TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Nicholls State at DePaul, noon
Central Florida at Seton Hall, 6p.m.

HOCKEY EAST

Standings

MEN'S

Team

UMass Lowell 16 10-3-311 8-2-1 25

UMass 15 9-4-2 11-7-2-2 24

Northeastern 18 13-4-111 7-3-1 23

Providence 21 14-7-011 6-5-0 19

Boston College 16 8-5-3 10-5-3-2 19

Boston University 18 6-9-3 13-5-3 17

UConn 14 8-6-0 9-5-4-0 14

Merrimack 15 6-9-0 10-3-7-0 12

New Hampshire 17 7-9-1 11-3-7-1 9

Vermont 16 3-11-2 10-2-6-2 8

Maine 17 2-11-4 11-1-8-2 7

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Dartmouth at Merrimack, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S TEAM

Team